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Inter-Arab Affairs

Maghreb Foreign Ministers Hold Meeting in Tripoli

Consultative Meeting 22 Jan

LD2201171891 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli (JANA)—A consultative meeting was held at 1200 today comprising the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Boulares, Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdelatif Filali, and the Mauritanian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Call for UNSC Meeting

LD2201210491 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Jan (JANA)—The meetings of the eighth session of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Foreign Ministers Council, which started this afternoon, ended this evening. The AMU foreign ministers discussed preparations for the next session of the AMU presidency council. The delegation of the Great Jamahiriyah presented during the meetings a number of constructive proposals on developing the work of the AMU and propelling it toward achieving its objectives. JANA has learned that agreement was reached on the presentation of an official request by AMU members to the United Nations Security Council for holding an emergency session in order to halt the Gulf war and provide an opportunity for peaceful solutions, considering that the problem is Arab, that those being harmed are Arabs, and that the war is raging on Arab soil and causes the destruction of the capabilities of our Arab nation. JANA has also learned that the meeting appealed to other Arab countries to join the efforts of the AMU for preserving the future of the Arab nation and building its comprehensive unity.

Want Gulf Cease-fire

LD2401084891 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] The five Maghreban states that yesterday [as heard] called for a UN Security Council [UNSC] emergency meeting are exerting all efforts to prepare a peace plan for the Gulf crisis.

The Maghreban states proposed that the UNSC declare a cease-fire to enable President Saddam Husayn to safely withdraw his forces from Kuwait, while the Arab Maghreb Union states send an Arab peacekeeping force to replace (?the observation) forces.

Libyan Minister's Address

LD2301185191 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Excerpts] The Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Foreign Ministers Council began its meetings in Tripoli at 1630 yesterday. The brother secretary of the people's committee for foreign liaison and international cooperation made a statement which he started by welcoming the brothers the AMU foreign ministers participating in the session. He affirmed that the meetings of this session constitute an important step in the Maghreban unity march, as it will prepare for the 3d summit conference of the AMU Presidential Council which will be held in the Great Jamahiriyah. He said: We view this meeting as a serious step on the road to the realization of comprehensive Arab unity. [passage omitted]

The brother secretary added: Our meeting comes at a time when a destructive war is raging in the Arab Gulf region, which is directed against the Arab nation, its existence, its entity its destiny and is imposing a fait accompli on it.

He pointed out that taking these facts into consideration, the Great Jamahiriyah has tried from the start to contain the crisis, through the initiative put forward by the brother leader of the revolution which we still believe to be the way to find an honorable solution to the crisis. Furthermore, the brother leader of the revolution, believing in the need to adopt a speedy joint Arab initiative to end the war, proposed that the Arab kings and presidents should address the UN Security Council collectively, or at least those who agree to do so. By this call, the brother leader of the revolution meant sponsoring a resolution calling for an end to the war, and providing another opportunity for a political solution, with the Arabs shouldering their responsibilities in consecrating this solution, on the grounds that the problem of Kuwait is essentially an Arab problem and the national responsibility makes it imperative for us now more than at any time past not to sit on the fence in the face of what is happening. [announcer interrupts to say that program will cease transmission on 1251 khz]

Let us work with a true Arab spirit at preventing the destruction of Kuwait and Iraq. We should not allow the war to widen so that it aims in fact at the destruction of the Arabs' economic and military capabilities and resources. We must realize that if the international community fails to find a political solution a chance then [passage indisctinc].

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Adviser Cited on PLO, Saddam, Israel

PM2401111391 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 19 Jan 91 p 3

[Report on 18 January interview with Dr. 'Imad Shakkur, adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, by H.M. van den Brink: "Saddam Attached Himself to PLO"]

[Text] Amman, 19 Jan—At two minutes past two on the morning of 18 January Dr. 'Imad Shakur, adviser on Israeli affairs to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, was astounded. As usual before going to sleep he was listening to Israeli radio, which suddenly announced that Iraqi missiles were on their way toward the holy land. He immediately rang the PLO Embassy in Amman and the Jordanian authorities to pass on the news, and while doing so he felt "happy, very happy." Later that night spontaneous celebrations broke out in the Palestinian refugee camps. People sang and danced because a blow had finally been struck against Israel. Shakur remained indifferent. Or stronger: He would have preferred to have seen the missiles fly in a great arc over Tel Aviv and Haifa and fall into the sea. He does not think that the destruction of Israel has begun with the attack; he is simply happy because he thinks that on Thursday night peace in the Middle East was brought a step closer.

"Let's be honest," he said 16 hours later to two Dutch journalists. "The damage done means nothing at all. But that is not the point. The point is that Saddam Husayn has shown that he is in a position to involve Israel in a war, and as a result it is clear that this is no longer a Gulf war but a crisis which affects the whole of the Middle East."

At the time of the interview it was still not clear whether the Israeli Government intends to retaliate against Iraq. Shakkur is convinced that in their own interest the Israelis would be wise not to react. But in his view the present leaders in Israel are not particularly wise. "Israel finds itself in a very difficult predicament. There is domestic political pressure for a counterstrike and pressure from the Americans for them to do nothing. Shrewd people like Ben Gurion and Chaim Weizman would probably have found a way out, but the present government is intellectually very limited. Therefore they will probably reach the wrong decision."

The 49-year-old political scientist said this almost regretfully. He spent the best part of his life in Israel. He gained his doctorate at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, fled to Jordan after the 1967 war, and at present lives in Tunis, where the PLO has its headquarters. Five days ago he traveled to Amman, the Jordanian capital, with 'Arafat for talks with King Husayn, and the aim was that two days later he would follow the PLO chairman to Baghdad. Because he too did not expect the war to break out so quickly, he is stranded in the Jordanian capital, from where he now advises PLO headquarters by telephone.

For a PLO official Shakur makes relatively little use of political rhetoric. He also warned that his views do not always coincide with the official position of his organization. However, as far as involving Israel in the war is concerned, he gave assurances that his view is the same as 'Arafat's. "On this point the interests of Iraq and the PLO diverge. Saddam Husayn wants above all to broaden the front, sow confusion among the Arab allies of the United States, and as a result make the war longer and more complicated. We do not want any new fronts, but a new peace. But at some point there will have to be negotiations about an end to hostilities. If Israel and the PLO have been involved in the war, the Palestinian question will also have to be discussed. That is our gain."

Shakur emphatically rejected the suggestion that the PLO naively backed the wrong horse by supporting Saddam Husayn. "We had no choice. Every other nation has been able to choose which side to join and whether to become involved in the war. We were already at war, with Israel. We did not go to Saddam Husayn; at a particular juncture he joined us. We cannot take this amiss and it would also be difficult for us to go against it."

In his thinking Shakur seems to discount a resounding victory by Saddam Husayn, but he also rules out a total defeat followed by the occupation of Iraq. The Iraqi Army is too large and too well trained and armed for that. In World War II Germany also had excellent troops at its disposal, but risked a campaign against the Soviet Union and other campaigns a long way from home. Saddam Husayn will never try to occupy Turkey, for example. He prefers to fight on his own territory.

Nor did Saddam Husayn miscalculate, in Shakur's opinion, when he invaded Kuwait 2 August. After the war between Iraq and Iran he had enormous debts, because oil prices had long been kept low. There was a threat that his enormous army, which was his power base in the region, would become underfed and discontented, at the same time as its arms were becoming obsolescent. "There was a threat that he would end up in the same situation as Egypt. The Americans were out to get him to go the same way as Anwar al-Sadat. I don't think that he is very frightened by the international reaction. I myself have only met him once, a few weeks ago, but as an organization we know him very well. I can assure you: He is not worried by what the newspapers and magazines are writing at present, or what is being said on radio and television. That is not how he thinks. For him what is important is the history books. He will live in the paragraph that is devoted to him, and he asks himself daily whether his paragraph will be as long as those of Nebuchadnezzar, Hammurabi, Saladin, and other heroes from his country. That is why it is completely unthinkable that he will wholly or partially withdraw from Kuwait without having achieved something of historic importance; if not for his own people, then perhaps for the Palestinians. If the Americans think that he will simply give way, they are mistaken and must prepare themselves for a particularly long fight."

Asked whether at present the Palestinian question is thus being exploited by a dictator who is primarily pursuing his own ends, Shakur answered in the affirmative, with a sigh. It is true that until recently Saddam Husayn concerned himself less with the Palestinians than other Arab leaders of the last 40 years. But the PLO is hoping that Saddam Husayn's behavior will trigger an earthquake, but that does not mean that the Palestinians would want to be the subjects of a Greater Arab Empire to be created under his leadership. Shakur: "There are too many differences of view between him and 'Arafat for that.

Saddam Husayn is a dictator, whereas we are democrats. I would never want my daughter to live as the daughters of Iraq are having to live at this moment. Our aim is first and foremost the foundation of our own state, which could then possibly be subsumed into a federation. In our view every people has a right to its own country, and to the right of self-determination."

PFLP Head Confirms Israel 'Main Objective'

AU2301121391 Rome ANSA in English 1057 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] ANSA, Damascus, January 23—George Habash, charismatic leader of one of the most radical factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), told ANSA in an exclusive interview Tuesday that while his own group still regarded Israel and the struggle in the occupied territories as the priority target for Palestinian action, other factions inside the PLO were "in ferment" after Saddam Husayn's call for all Muslims to hit Western interests.

Here is the full text of the question-and-answer session with the 64-year-old doctor of medicine, Marxist-Leninist leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the man who "invented" air hijacking after the Arab defeat in the 1967 Six-Day War, and whom Western intelligence services nicknamed "doctor terror":

Q: There is great interest in Italy to try to understand the Palestinian question. Why are you siding with Saddam Husayn?

A: We did not take this position on August 2 (the day of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait), but on the 6th [August], when American troops arrived in the Gulf. What we were faced with was intervention by the United States, which occupied Saudi Arabia. Before that day, we condemned the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The United States' aim is clear: To control oil reserves and the price of oil. That is why we are on Iraq's side.

Q: Contrasting pointers have come from the PLO: There are those who called for all Western interests to be hit, and others who have made pleas for moderation.

A: The PLO's position is clear and unified, against the Jews and imperialists, in complete support of Iraq. Different language is being used, but in the end we are all united against the United States. The position is clear on that level.

Q: Rather than the war in the Gulf, I was thinking of possible terrorist attacks in Europe.

A: I cannot say we are all in agreement on that. I speak for the PFLP, and our main objective is still Israel. But if you want to know what the situation is inside the Palestinian groups, they are all in ferment.

Q: What will the Palestinians do if Saddam is defeated?

A: We will continue the fight. It is a just cause and even if we lose a few battles, we will win in the end. There will be no solutions until the legitimate right of Palestinians to a state is recognised. If the United States wants international legality, let us apply to all the problems in the region: Saddam withdraws from Kuwait and Israel gets out of the occupied territories. There are United Nations solutions for the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip. What you say is terrorism and we call our rightful struggle, will continue. [sentence as received]

Q: After 1967, the skyjackings started. Should we expect something similar?

A: We shall continue our struggle against international terrorism. But our main objective will be Israel, and developing the Intifadah in the occupied territories.

Q: There has been a terrorist attack on the Italian Embassy in Beirut. One of the tasks of charismatic leaders like yourself is to rein in those who carry out gestures that are unproductive for the Palestinian cause.

A: All this is very complex and difficult, but let us hope that the positions of governments help us. I am sorry to say that the Italian Government has always said "yes" to the American position on the Gulf. In the past you took a very clear stance on the Palestinian question, and we appreciated that greatly. We are sorry to see the European countries backing the Americans now.

Q: Are you with the Iraqi people, or with Saddam Husayn?

A: There is no difference between the people, the Army, or Saddam's position. You've seen the demonstrations in Algiers, Tunis, Jordan, and Sudan. The truth is that all the Arab people are with Iraq and Saddam.

Q: Are you optimistic or pessimistic?

A: I am no journalist, and so I will give a diplomatic answer. I am optimistic, even if we have to fight for a thousand years. I am a revolutionary, fighting for our children. And then, how can I be pessimistic when Iraqi missiles strike Israel?

Palestinian 'Delight' At Missile Attacks Viewed

JN2301133591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine, Hamas, has called on the Arab and Islamic peoples, whose governments support the Crusader alliance against Iraq, to take action and force their governments to withdraw their forces that are taking part in the aggressive alliance. Hamas called on the Arab and Islamic masses to actively support the Iraqi people against the rancorous aggression. It considered this battle as a big opportunity for the Arab nation to restore its unity and to adopt an Islamic position, a position of pride, dignity, jihad, and martyrdom.

In its statement, the movement called on the nation's masses to devote all their resources to this battle, and to

strike at all the interests of the arrogant forces in the world. The movement expressed the delight of the Palestinian masses inside the occupied territories over the Iraqi missile attack on the Zionist entity. It said: We were delighted to see the Arab weapons pounding the strongholds of the Zionist entity in the heart of Tel Aviv and other cities, making the Jews suffer for their daily repression of the Palestinians, frightening them, and humiliating them.

The Hamas movement statement described this aggressive alliance as a new Crusader onslaught led by Bush, the head of tyranny and the leader of the forces of evil in this world, against the Islamic nation, beginning with lofty Iraq that represents the peak of challenge. The statement denounced the resolutions of the American Congress, the British House of Commons, and the French National Assembly, which were issued by a large majority, in support of the military aggression against Iraq. The statement pointed out that this indicates the connection between the West and the Jews, which is not only due to security and economic reasons, but is also based on a joint ideological concept that is aimed against Muslims. The statement referred to the panic of America and its allies of the forces of evil as a result of the Iraqi missile attack on the Zionist entity, and how America hastened to open its arms arsenals for the Jews and organized a huge airlift to supply Israel with antimissile missiles along with their American technical crews.

The statement said that the first Crusades were carried out on the pretext of saving the tomb of Christ, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, from the Muslims, with the aim of mobilizing the Crusader forces in a Satanic alliance against the Islamic nation to plunder the Arab homeland's resources and to play havoc in the Muslims' homelands. The statement added: Here is Bush, the head of the infidel alliance of the world evildoers, trying once again to humiliate the Muslims, to plunder their wealth, and to pave the way for the establishment of greater Israel in accordance with the distorted prophecy of the Talmud, if, God forbid, his new Crusades succeed. This is why Hamas was not surprised by the resolutions that were issued by the great majority in the American Congress, the British House of Commons, and the French National Assembly in support of the military aggression against Iraq. Moreover, we find that the connection between the Jews and the West is not only due to security and economic reasons, but is also based on a joint ideological concept that is aimed against the Muslims in accordance with the distorted Talmud and Torah. Nor will they cease fighting you until they turn you back from your faith if they can. [Koranic verse]

The statement added: Here are the forces of Crusaders, Jews, and delusion advancing toward our homelands, carrying all kinds of mass destruction weapons, and attacking our people, brothers, and children in lofty Iraq in the same way as they attacked, with the same weapons, our children women, and people in beloved Palestine. Here we are seeing the shock and horror of the head of the infidels, Bush, and all the forces of evil that are allied with him, when Tel Aviv and some of the occupied Palestinian cities were exposed to Iraqi missile attacks, and how Bush opened his arsenals for the Jews and organized a huge airlift to supply Israel with antiballistic missiles with their American technical crews to defend the security of the Jewish entity, at a time when he could not care less about the blood of our children, the demolition of our houses, the expulsion of our people, and the deportation of our mujahidin, as if our people are not human beings.

Algeria

Bendjedid Blames U.S. for Gulf Peace Failure

LD2301142891 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] The National People's Assembly opened its extraordinary session about an hour ago at the request of the president of the republic.

President Chadli Bendjedid is still delivering his speech at this very moment. He has presented a comprehensive review of all the efforts made by Algeria since the conflict started in the region. His excellency the president stressed how these efforts would have succeeded had it not been for the decision of some parties, especially the United States, to change their mind. Starting with the Cairo summit, President Chadli Bendjedid indicated that Algeria had reservations because the climate had not been prepared for an Arab role and the summit was held too quickly. The same summit adopted resolutions which divided Arab public opinion and Algeria did not sign those resolutions because they conflicted with its viewpoint. Despite all this, Algeria made intensive efforts and the president made several trips which enabled Algeria to gather all the facts and, with the Europeans, it arrived at a formula for a solution which was not made public; but when that formula was submitted to the Security Council and to the United States, an agreement was reached on all the proposed points apart from the one point about the international conference.

President Chadli Bendjedid said that this point was unfortunately rejected not only by the United States but by some Arab parties who decided to refuse to link the conflict in the region with all the other problems of the Middle East conflict.

So, the president of the republic said that a few days ago we wondered what the solution could be, and that was before 15 January. Should we content ourselves with what we have already done or should we continue? He added that our dignity urged us to move before the deadline of 15 January; therefore, we decided to return to Baghdad. We also decided, he went on to say, to travel to the United States. He said in this regard: I intended to travel to the United States not out of material interest nor to ask for political influence. The U.S. refusal is considered as a humiliation to Algeria and the excuse given was that the UN secretary general had not presented his report yet.

After the report was presented, they said that since the secretary general did not obtain anything, we cannot respond favorably to any request which is outside the UN resolutions.

The president of the republic also indicated that he tried to obtain a secret agreement between himself and U.S. President George Bush on a personal basis, providing for holding an international peace conference which would enable him to convince the brothers, especially Iraq; but we were unsuccessful. Naturally we had to cancel our trip to Baghdad as a result.

In conclusion, the president said that Algeria is satisfied because it tried to make endeavors and it fully carried out its duty. The president of the republic also pointed out that the allied forces had gone beyond their original mission and they exploited the issue of Kuwait to destroy Iraq. This is a pretext and nothing else. It is a trap set for the Arab states since the years of the Iran-Iraq war. The Iraq-Iran war was also a trap, and they destroyed the Iranian forces which began to threaten Western interests.

The president of the republic said: I told Saddam Husayn that the United States will not let you threaten their interests and also threaten Israel, especially now that the arena is emptier [as heard] than it was before, since there were two blocs, and the Nonaligned Movement was active, and we used to maneuver via these bodies. But the vacuum was seen by the United States as the chance of a lifetime to break Iraq's capabilities.

At the end of his address, the president of the republic stated that the West is endeavoring to alter the map of the world to establish a new international order. He added that the Arab Maghreb region is under threat because of its huge resources and energies; therefore, we are not safe, and Maghreb citizens must be aware of this.

In this speech, the president of the republic insisted on highlighting the fact that Algeria's efforts were intensive and he said, I quote: I defy any party, be it in Algeria or abroad, to show that they have made more efforts than Algeria throughout this misfortune and since the start of the conflict in the region and since 2 August.

So, President Chadli Bendjedid concluded by saying that Algeria stands by the fraternal people of Iraq; but he warned against the veiled speeches and warned against the manipulation of the masses' emotions. He added that our strength lies in our unity as well as in serious work.

Bendjedid Meets Palestine, Mauritania Officials

LD2201230591 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Excerpts] This morning's presidential activities, amid the developments in the Gulf crisis which we are experiencing with all its ramifications, included President Chadli Bendjedid's meetings with Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Hasni Ould Didi, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; members of the National Secretariat of the National Union of Algerian Youth; and members of the National Secretariat of the National Union of Algerian Women.

After emerging from the president's office, Nayif Hawatimah made a press statement: [Begin Hawatimah recording] It is a source of great pleasure to the Democratic Front, our people, and the PLO, that our meeting

took place today with the president, in view of Algeria's major and persistent role regarding our issues in the Middle East and in the Gulf. The main focus of our discussion today was the Gulf crisis and how it would be possible for Algerian and Palestinian, particularly, and Arab efforts opposed to the war and the aggression against Iraq to be intensified to stop the war and the aggression and to sit again at the negotiating table to look for balanced political solutions to the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Hasni Ould Didi, the Mauritanian foreign minister, made the following statement after his meeting with the president:

[Begin recording] I had the honor to convey to His Excellency the president a message from his brother President Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya. The message comes within the context of continued bilateral consulations between the two countries, particularly in the circumstances in which we witness the Arab's installations, resources, entity, and achievements threatened. The message also comes in the context of general consultations on the current situation in the Arab Gulf, and all the initiatives that may safeguard the future of our Arab and Islamic nation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ghazali Cited on Gulf War 'Initiative' at UN

LD2201131191 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 22 Jan (APS)—In an interview with the daily paper EL MOUDJAHID, Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sid Ahmed Ghazali considers that anti Iraqi coalition's mandate is over that Algeria addressed an appeal to the UN in this regard and that "hostilities should be stopped to the [as received] because we are on the way to very serious results, not only by their repercussions in the Arab world but in all the world". Added Ghazali, explaining Algeria's initiative at the Security Council, an initiative supported by India, Yugoslavia, the current [words indistinct]. About the Security Council's pressures and the USSR's position, this head of Algerian diplomacy recalled that the USSR has always declared that in the Gulf crisis, it is the coalition's ally. Here is the USSR's position. While attracting his attention that the USSR (?does) not militarily intervene in the Gulf war, Ghazali answered: "Not yet, but it does support the military intervention".

Upon the success chances of a peace plan, Ghazali recalled the talks he had Sunday afternoon, with the secretary general of Le Quai d'Irsay (French Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and asserted "Whatever all the chances, it is in this direction that (?we should) act: by any means, fights must be stopped despite Iraq's resistance. This tremendous resistance. But there are destructions that affect no one but Arab countries. [no closing quotes as received]

In the same vein, he pointed out that "At this time, there are favourable echos among the Security Council's members." Less, he added, among permanent members, this should be noted, he said specifying that [words indistinct] immediate reaction, the most negative one was that of the USSR. "But we continue our action", declared the Algerian minister of foreign affairs.

Eventually, and upon Morocco's proposition to send Maghrebine interposition forces in the Gulf, Ghazali observed that "it is a mode that endorses a peaceful solution [words indistinct] particular form that is not presented as a solution to the [word indistinct].

EL MOUDJAHID noted that "according to some information" it possesses, the Algerian initiative could have been rejected at the Security Council. The head of Algerian diplomacy asserted "absolutely not, we are still at consultation and exploration. Officially, we posed the problem before both the UN secretary general and the Security Council. Therefore, contacts were made with permanent members of this council and other countries that are not members, do not vote but could promote this initiative, support or favour it, each country in the light of its position. [no closing quotes as received]

We had contacts with Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, Yugoslavia that currently presides Nonaligned Movement to provoke support and promotion current. [sentence as received]

UMA's (Arab Maghreb Union) five countries (?supported this initiative.) UMA's ambassadors to the UN closely cooperate around the (?matter).

Hence, these are the first unofficial reactions at a consultation plan, after that, there will be a text due to be submitted to the Security Council's vote. It is this very time we could say that we are rejected or not if the Security Council did take a position. Many countries did not give their opinion yet. Some of them agreed to support our initiative, others such as the USA and Great Britain had a negative reaction. As for China, it did not give its opinion yet. But I do repeat that these are the first reactions.

Turkish Involvement in Gulf War Condemned

LD2401104191 Algiers APS in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 24 Jan (APS)—A statement issued by the Algerian Foreign Ministry says that the Turkish ambassador to Algeria was received by a top Foreign Ministry official who expressed to the ambassador Algeria's deep concern over Turkey's ongoing involvement in the Gulf conflict by allowing Turkish territory to be used for launching bloody air raids against the Iraqi people and its achievements.

The statement adds that the top official drew the Turkish ambassador's attention to the repercussions of widening the conflict through the involvement of NATO via Turkish soil. He also highlighted the ramifications that

could result on Turkey's future relations with the Arab and Islamic world, as an ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] member-state.

In conclusion, the statement says that the top Foreign Ministry official warned against the repercussions of any attempt to violate Iraq's territorial sovereignty.

Opposition Parties' Efforts for Gulf Peace

LD2201203491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Algerian moves aimed at establishing a cease-fire and supporting the Iraqi people are being led by the contacts made by the leaders of many political parties. Among these moves we mention the visit which is now being paid to Tehran by Ahmed Ben Bella, leader of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria. Before going to Tehran, the former Algerian president visited Baghdad and stayed there a few days, during which he held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

In the same context is the visit of the leader of the Socialist Forces Front, Ahmed Ait Ahmed, to Tunisia where he met the Palestinian president and representatives of various Tunisian political parties to discuss the possibility of convening a Mediterranean conference attended by all parties opposed to the war against Iraq.

The moves are not confined to political parties; they also extend to youth organizations. The national secretariat of the National Union of Algerian Youth said in a statement that in the framework of its contacts with international political and student organizations, undertaken with a view to consolidating the international movement opposed to the war in the Gulf, it has received a reply from the International Federation of Democratic Youth which indicated its concern regarding the need to support joint efforts to stop a war whose main objective is to defend the interests of the United States and its allies. [passage omitted]

Students Demonstrate Against Gulf War

LD2201155191 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] The people continue to raise their voices denouncing the aggression on the Iraqi people and call for an end to the war against them.

In Algeria, the Central University today witnessed a large rally called for by the League of Algerian Students. The slogans included: "Let the cowards and the traitors fall," and "No to capitulationist information."

Two representatives of the League of Algerian Students have spoken about the reason for this rally and the call made to students by the league in an interview with our colleague Nasirah Mannan: [Begin recording] [Student] The main reason for this rally is to express the voice and stance of the Algerian students toward the developments in the Gulf. Algerian students cannot keep out of the arena of events. They must rise to the level of events and must take a historic stand. They must rise to the level of the challenge. They must expose and make the people feel and understand the international game that is being played in our absence and imposed on us with the aim of humiliating us and making others look good.

[Mannan] Do you not think that the media is sufficient for enlightening the students? The television, radio, and the press enlighten the citizens. Do you not think that is sufficient?

[student] Indeed, the media should play its roles. But the students, too, must take a stand. No university professor, no student, and no student body was present in any of the television discussions held on the Gulf crisis. The discussions and dialogues were confined to the political parties which express their view on television. But it is necessary for every section of society to express its position.

Furthermore, the university represents a society in miniature. The students, teachers, the administration, and the university as a whole should play their role—a role which would raise the educational level of the student and thus enable him to make a challenge. Challenge can only come through raising educational standards.

Our brothers in 1956 decided to join the struggle and thus took a historic stand which remained registered in the memories of the people. The students did that on 19 May 1956.

Today, too, we must take a stand and express our views. We must ask the state to assume its responsibilities. If they cannot do it with the army, we are prepared. [end recording]

Egypt

Kuwaiti Liberation is Government's 'Basic Aim'

PM2401101391 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 21 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Information Minister Emphasizes: Egypt's Basic Aim Is Liberation of Kuwait"]

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has emphasized that Egypt's basic aim is the liberation of Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate authority there, and that Egypt will never abandon its principled position on the Gulf crisis. He also confirmed that Egyptians in the Gulf states are all well, secure, and under no threat. He added that the government is watching their situation carefully, and has made available various facilities for those wishing to return.

The minister said that Egypt was following all events and new developments in the Gulf and maintaining international, Arab, and Islamic contacts, and that there was coordination and understanding with various states on ways of tackling the fast-moving developments resulting from the current operations for the liberation of Kuwait.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM correspondent Salamah Hasan, the information minister said that all factions and trends of Egyptian society are well aware of all attempts by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to reshuffle the cards and indulge in diversionary tactics, so as to draw attention away from the main issue of Kuwait's liberation.

Al-Baz on Post-War Security, Other Issues

PM2301160291 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 20 Jan 91 p 18

[Unattributed report on an interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, chief of the president's Office for Political Affairs and first under secretary of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; date and place not given]

[Text] The Gulf crisis was featured at a meeting with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's Office for Political Affairs and first under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr. al-Baz was keen to affirm from the very beginning that the military confrontation gains absolutely nothing for Egypt and that Egypt's policy and handling of the crisis stems from a principled stand consistent with Egypt's historical responsibilities in the Arab region. Egypt, he said, has tried to keep the crisis within the Arab fold right from the beginning, both before and after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Asked for his preliminary view of security arrangements for the Gulf region after the end of the current crisis and whether such arrangements will include the stationing of Egyptian forces in that region, Dr. al-Baz said: Of course there are bound to be new security arrangements in the region after what has happened. Relationas between Arab and non-Arab states in the Middle East region will have to be discussed with regard to the quantity and type of arms, border disputes, and other differences which could lead to an outbreak of hostilities.

Dr. al-Baz said that all these differences will be resolved either through nonaggression pacts or the stationing of special forces on the borders between contending states to prevent anything that might threaten the security of the region. He added: We must emphasize, however, that the security system will depend on Arab—not foreign—forces, and that it will be established with the approval of all the member states of the Arab League and the signatories of the Collective Arab Defense Pact, under which Egypt assumes a greater responsibility toward all the Arab states.

Dr. al-Baz said: Thus, if the Gulf states request the presence of Egyptian forces in their region to preserve security, we will have no objection whatsoever, on condition that this is approved by all the parties concerned.

Dr. al-Baz said that what is happening is a threat not just to Gulf security, but also to Arab national security in its widest sense.

Regarding the possibility of redrawing the map of the Arab World after the crisis, whether it is resolved peacefully or by war, Dr. al-Baz said: I absolutely do not believe in such a thing. We insist on the territorial integrity of all the Arab states, including the Gulf states. We absolutely do not agree to a redrawing of the map of any Arab country, including Iraq, whose territorial integrity we want to preserve exactly as we are preserving our own territorial integrity.

Asked his opinion about repeated reports that Israel would occupy Jordan, Dr. al-Baz said: We will absolutely not allow Israel, or any other state, to threaten any Arab state. Jordan is a country to which we are bound by a collective defense pact. So we are committed to preserving its territorial integrity and political, sovereign entity.

Asked what Egypt's position would be if Israel entered the war, Dr. al-Baz said: We are fully determined to keep Israel out of this crisis. It must not be a party to it whatsoever. However, if it enters the war, it will definitely be for the purpose of further undermining and dividing the Arab stand.

Dr. al-Baz said: We asked the United States right from the beginning of the crisis to advise Israel not to involve itself in this matter, since this would mean that it did not want peaceful relations with any of the Arab states.

Dr. al-Baz said that if there is to be a role for Israel, it will have to come after the crisis. That role, he added, will be to cooperate with us in putting an end to the sufferings of the Palestinian people.

Regarding rumors about the existence of a secret agreement between Iraq and the United States, Dr. al-Baz said: There is a general impression among many people here in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world that the whole crisis began with an interplay between Iraq and the United States and that the final split between the two sides came when Iraq went beyond the red line set by the United States. Of course, such talk is absolute nonsense.

Dr. al-Baz said: The dialogue which existed between Iraq and the United States was never a conspiracy, but a serious discussion which we ourselves helped to establish in order to improve relations between the two sides. So, the Iraqi president's conversation with the U.S. woman ambassador in Baghdad concerning Iraq's view of the situation in the region was never a conspiratorial attempt by the Iraqi side, nor was it a U.S. encouragement of such an attempt. Furthermore, there were no red or green lights, as some have claimed.

Dr. al-Baz added: I am not trying to refute charges against anyone. I am only affirming that the U.S. position was the same as that of all the other forces. If there was any conspiracy between Iraq and all the other states that defend Kuwait's legitimate rights, then there was a conspiracy between Iraq and the United States!!

Regarding future political relations between Egypt and the Arab states—especially Iraq, which is the only state

with which we have not kept a point of return—Dr. al-Baz said: We are fully convinced that there is no conflict of interest whatsoever between us and any other Arab state. We want to improve our relations with all the Arab states, and Iraq is no exception, despite the mistake it has made, which we are trying to rectify. We do not want to antagonize Iraq or take revenge on it.

Asked about the government's position on the 750,000 Egyptians who are in Iraq, Dr. al-Baz said: Although the figure mentioned is far from real, we will strongly defend the interests of the Egyptians even if there is only one Egyptian there.

Dr. al-Baz asked: How many Egyptians were there in Somalia? Very few. Yet, our responsibility to protect them had nothing to do with their number. Our responsibility to protect the Egyptians in Iraq is nothing new. We have been in touch with the Iraqi Government following the harassment of Egyptian workers there. The Iraqi Government's response has been very positive.

Dr. al-Baz continued: True, some Egyptians have settled in Iraq for several years now, but we will not allow any harm to be done to them. Of course, we did not ask them to take any specific stands. Nor did we involve them in anything that might be used against them. We gave them complete freedom to conduct themselves as required by the situation there.

Dr. al-Baz concluded: We do not have any reasons or indications for believing that the Egyptians who are settled there are under any kind of pressure. Egyptians enjoy the same rights as Iraqis, and also have the same duties. The responsibility to safeguard the Egyptians fall on both the government and the people. The contacts between us and the Iraqi leadership have not stopped. Our embassy there is also still open.

Sudanese Party Denounces Anti-Egypt Demonstrations

NC2301235491 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] The Democratic Unionist Party in Sudan has expressed strong denunciation and utmost regret over the demonstrations planned by the military Islamic Front government in Khartoum, their ignoble slander of President Husni Mubarak, and the acts of aggression against the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum. The Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party statement also denounced the demonstrations staged against Saudi Arabia and the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. The statement said that what happened in Sudan against Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates is merely an intrigue hatched by schemers against the Arab nation.

500 Sudanese Deported; Antiterrorism Measures

NC2301183891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has emphasized that Egypt's security and stability are of paramount importance. Against the background of the Gulf crisis, he added, police are taking all the security measures needed to secure the national front.

In statements to journalists today, the interior minister disclosed that since the Gulf crisis began, 500 Sudanese nationals have been deported for trying to create unrest and instability in Egypt.

Anyone suspected of attempting to destabilize Egyptian security, regardless of nationality, is deported forthwith. Musa added that arrivals suspected of belonging to any troublemaking group are turned back, since the current circumstances call for the utmost vigilance to forestall infiltrators seeking entry into the country to trigger unrest.

The interior minister indicated that increased land, sea, and air security measures must be applied to all arrivals, including Egyptians.

He said the closure of the VIP lounge at Cairo airport since the Gulf war was in the context of the tight security measures taken to thwart attempts to sneak criminal and terrorist elements into the country, given that Egypt is being targeted on account of its stand on the Gulf crisis.

Emergency Medical Teams To Be Set Up

NC2201213191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2039 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)—The Doctors Association has decided to send a military team to Jordan in the next few days to learn the medical needs of Egyptian and Arab refugees flying from Kuwait and Iraq on their way back to Egypt.

The decision was made during a meeting of the Association Council today. Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh stated that the team will make the necessary preparations for physicians' travel to Jordan in cooperation with the Jordanian doctors association. He added that integrated medical teams specialized in various aspects of medicine and emergency medicine will be set up to undertake any emergency treatement operations in Egypt should the citizens be attacked.

In another development, the Humanitarian Relief Committee at the General Doctors Association has appealed to all doctors who have experience in medical emergencies to report to the committee in order to set up the necessary medical teams needed for any emergency treatment work the homeland might need.

The association appealed to citizens to donate money and blood for this purpose.

Party Officer Condemns Iraqi 'Aggression'

NC2301013591 Cairo MENA in English 1950 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)—Saddam Husayn's persistence in rejecting and challenging the UN Security Council resolutions is the direct cause behind the eruption of the destructive Gulf war and the perdition awaiting the Iraqi Army, Khalid Muhiy al-Din secretary general of the Progressive Unionist Grouping Party said today.

In his interview with 'SAWT AL-KUWAYT' newspaper published today he stressed that the party condemned the Iraqi aggression and denounced the stance of the Iraqi regime which had triggered an international crisis.

The party has demanded an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait, he added.

Yemeni Plan, Egyptian Opposition Meeting Noted

NC2101220591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpts] I have learned from well-informed Arab sources in Cairo that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih told Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during the telephone conversation between them yesterday about a Yemeni request for an immediate cease-fire in the Gulf, proposing a military truce between Iraq and the allied forces for one month until Arab and international efforts are given a chance to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully.

The Yemeni president proposed that an expanded Arab summit be held during the truce to discuss the dangers of a war that would affect the security of all the countries in the region and, as he put it, annihilate the Iraqi people completely. Salih asserted the need to find the means to achieve an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait in exchange for the protection of Iraq and the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the region, and to agree on bases for a security alternative. [passage omitted]

Representatives of some Egyptian opposition parties held a meeting this morning at the invitation of the opposition Misr al-Fatah [Young Egypt] Party. The meeting was attended by the Labor Party, the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG], the Greens Party, and the Socialist Nasirite Party. They condemned the U.S. aggression on Iraq and said that the role of the Egyptian forces in the Gulf should be confined to protecting the Saudi territories and should not go beyond it. These parties will hold another meeting next Thursday at the NPUG headquarters.

A popular committee, calling itself the Popular Committee for the Resistance to the American-Zionist Invasion in the Gulf [al-lajnah al-sha'biyah limuqawamat al-ghazw al-amiriki al-sahuni fi al- khalij], was also formed. The committee comprises the youth of the Labor Party, the Nasirite Party, the Liberal Party, and the Muslim Brotherhood. The committee issued a statement calling on all Arab and Islamic forces to stand for Arab rights in brotherly Iraq and to defend Arab dignity against the forces of neo-colonialism. The statement expressed disgust at the practices of the Egyptian media and its made-up reports which are intended to galvanize Egyptian citizens against Iraq and its leadership, as the statement put it. [passage omitted].

Opposition Paper Suggests Iraqi-Israeli 'Collusion'

PM2401111191 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Jan 91 p 1

[Editorial by Jamal Badawi: "Riddle of Saddam's Missiles Against Israel"]

[Text] Why did Israel let the Iraqi missiles penetrate Israeli airspace and wreak havoc in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem and terrify the inhabitants? Israel has the ability to destroy these missiles in the air. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did just that to the missiles launched against Dhahran. So why did the missile hunter remain silent with regard to Saddam Husayn's missiles?

This riddle requires interpretation, lest the truth get lost among the rubble of falsification and deception.

Everyone knows that Israeli airspace is not open or without protection. It is subject to advanced aerial protection. And Saddam Husayn announced openly before the war that he would hit Israel. No wise person would believe that Israel was surprised by the Iraqi missiles. If we believe that it was surprised by the first group of missiles launched at dawn Friday, how can we believe that it was surprised by the second raid on Saturday morning? Although the United States succeeded in persuading Israel not to retaliate, all expectations indicate that it will not prevent Israel after the second raid but will give it the freedom to take action. This simply means that Israel will respond to the open invitation offered by Saddam Husayn to take part in the Gulf war after staying out of the theater since the crisis started.

We know that Israel is looking for a role for itself in this mess in order to emerge with a share. That share is ready and known—the East Bank of the Jordan after King Husayn is toppled, with the establishment of a Palestinian ministate to absorb West Bank inhabitants, thus evacuating the West Bank to receive the millions of Jewish emigrants arriving from the Soviet Union and East Europe.

These expectations existed and were known. They were clear in Saddam Husayn's mind when he occupied Kuwait and provoked Israel to join the game and earn the reward. Efforts were being made to resolve this within the limited geographical range of the Gulf region and without any developments that would lead to the expansion of the conflict area and the participation of other parties—Israel, that is; but war developments point to the expansion of its zone to cover Israel.

The Iraqi missile attack and the Israeli reaction point clearly to collusion between the two sides to realize their common interests, even if the price is the elimination of the Jordanian state and Saddam's remaining in control of the energy centers in the Gulf.

Date for Resumption of Classes Established

NC2301072591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Dr. 'Adil 'Izz, minister of education and scientific research, has issued a notice saying that classes at all public and private schools affiliated with the Ministry of Education and at all levels of education will resume after the current mid-term vacation on Saturday, 2 February 1991. As for universities, the situation will be decided after the meeting of the universities' Higher Council.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Nicaragua's Ortega View Gulf War

LD2401151591 Tripoli JANA in English 1414 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Jan (JNA)—The leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] received yesterday Mr. Daniel Ortega, leader of the Sandinista front in Nicaragua.

Mr. Ortega presented the leader of the revolution a report on the contact made by the International Relations Committee on reaching a peaceful solution to the crisis of Kuwait.

Al-Qadhdhafi Issues Appeal

PA2401015491 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Jan 91 pp 1, 5

[By Sergio de Castro]

[Excerpt] Tripoli— The Persian Gulf war will result in irreparable damage to relations between future generations of Arabs and Americans, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi warned in an exclusive statement to BARRICADA.

Qadhdhafi issued an appeal for the war to stop and the coalition troops led by the United States to withdraw from the Arab world. "Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia are Arab countries and we can resolve the problem among ourselves," he said.

The Libyan leader gave the statement following an interview with former President Daniel Ortega in a bedouin tent in the desert on the outskirts of Tripoli, amid an atmosphere of great cordiality which contrasted with the cold that prevails at night this time of the year.

Ortega yesterday concluded a three-day visit to Libya to exchange views with that country's leader on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Since 17 January, when the United States launched the first attack against Iraq, former President Daniel Ortega has met with Soviet leaders, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He has also contacted Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, Indian Congress President Rajiv Gandhi, and King Husayn of Jordan.

Last night he arrived in Strasbourg to meet with Claude Cheysson, member of the French Parliament.

Libya reasserted its opposition to the foreign troops' presence in the Gulf and demanded the immediate withdrawal of military troops from countries that comprise the coalition led by the United States.

Libya's position was reasserted by the nation's leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, following a meeting with Former President Ortega, which lasted almost two hours.

The meeting was part of the efforts exerted by the Sandinist leader to sponsor a cease-fire in the gulf and create the necessary conditions to allow a peaceful resolution of all the current conflicts in the Persian Gulf.

Contacts and initiatives endorsing a cease-fire in the gulf have been recently increased, including an appeal by Pope John Paul II.

Ortega's efforts began in November, with his first visit to Iraq, where he talked with President Saddam Husayn.

He later visited different countries in the Middle East, Europe, North America, and Asia, to sponsor a peace proposal that outlines "solutions to all the problems that concern the parties involved in the conflicts," he explained to BARRICADA.

Ortega visited Baghdad on three occasions—most recently barely three days before the war began—to ascertain the Iraqi leaders' views on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Following meetings with Husayn on two occasions, Ortega stated that he is fully convinced that Iraq advocates a peaceful resolution of the conflict. [passage omitted]

Austrian Official Greeted; Political Efforts Urged

LD2301174691 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and Cooperation received at noon today the credentials of the Austrian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, Wilfried Amoslechner.

Addressing the Austrian ambassador, the Libyan Foreign Liaison secretary said: I have the pleasure of conveying to you the greetings of the brother leader of the revolution to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and his wishes for the prosperity and success of the Austrian people.

He added that the Great Jamahiriyah is always anxious to establish good relations with Austria by virtue of Austria's neutrality and it looks forward to Austria's

playing an effective role in developing good bilateral relations between Austria and the Greath Jamahiriyah and the betterment of these relations in all fields.

He added that the Great Jamahiriyah is always anxious to have good relations with the international community and thereby contribute to the establishment of continued mutual respect and cooperation among all countries. The Great Jamahiriyah also supports all the efforts aimed at bolstering international peace and security.

He added that by virtue of its traditional relations with the Arab homeland and its neutrality, Austria could play an effective role in drawing the attention of the public opinion in Europe to the seriousness of the brutality and campaign of annihilation waged by the Zionist enemy against the unarmed Palestine people who are struggling for the recognition of their legitimate rights, their return of their homes, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

He added that since the start of the Gulf crisis the Great Jamahiriyah has called for the implementation and respect of international legitimacy and for leaving to the United Nations and its Security Council along the task of dealing with the explosive situation there and the prevention of its escalation with its devastating consequences, which contradicts the aims of the resolutions of international legitimacy and conflicts with the aims and objectives of the United Nations and the Security Council resolutions in this regard.

Stemming from that, the Great Jamahiriyah calls most strongly for halting the current war in the Gulf and for the resumption of the political efforts for finding a peaceful solution for this crisis. [passage omitted]

Talks on Gulf Crisis With French Official Noted

LD2201130691 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1158 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Jan (JANA)—The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has met with Francois Scheer, under secretary of the French Foreign Ministry, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyh.

During the meeting a review was made of the relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and France and also the explosive situation in the Gulf and the means for finding a peaceful solution to the Kuwaiti crisis.

Peace Committee Urges End to War

LD2101234491 Tripoli JANA in English 1803 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Jan (JNA)—The Libyan Arab Committee for Solidarity and Peace, in a statement issued yesterday, called for the end of the war in the Gulf and the convening of an emergency session by the U.N. Security Council to find a settlement in the region so that a third world war [can] be avoided.

In its statement, the committee explained that international legitimacy cannot be divided so are the non-implementation of resolution and the non-implementation of international legitimacy which led to this devastating war which had been opposed and condemned by all the world nations through daily marches and demonstrations. [as received]

The committee called upon all the nations and the popular organizations of the world to continue their pressure upon their states which take part in the Gulf war to withdraw their forces and save world peace and mankind from the dangers of war and its calamities.

Tunisia

RCD Officer on Solidarity With Iraqi People

LD2401095891 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Tunisia continues its intense diplomatic endeavors to bring the war to a halt, thus expressing its concern over the outcome of the situation in the Gulf region.

In addition to its contribution to the efforts of the Maghreb countries within the UN framework, its call for a UN Security Council emergency meeting, and its intensive consultations with numerous countries to end the war and achieve peace, on the internal level Tunisia stresses its support for the brotherly Iraqi people and its rejection of the war that is destroying them.

In this connection, and in parallel with the concentrated endeavors of President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali to contain the fire and prevent Arab bloodshed, the Democratic Constitutional Assembly [RCD] has been following the moves aimed at mobilizing national and international public opinion for peace in the Gulf. The RCD headquarters was the location of a huge rally yesterday at which Hamed Karoui, deputy chairman of the RCD, reviewed developments in the Gulf. He also reviewed the efforts undertaken by Tunisia, president and party, to halt the fighting and bring about dialogue and negotiations to solve all issues of the region in accordance with international legitimacy and for the sake of supreme Arab interest.

In this connection, Hamed Karoui stressed the solidarity of the Tunisian people with the brotherly Iraqi people in the destructive war waged against them. He said the brotherly Iraqi people are facing a comprehensive war because the targets being destroyed by the allied forces are not only military, but also civilian, scientific, and technological, as well as constituting all that symbolizes Iraq's progress and prosperity.

The RCD deputy chairman indicated that the liberation of Kuwait should not turn into the destruction of Iraq and the obstruction of its development and its attempt to join other developed countries.

Karoui said that what is regrettable in this affair is the fact that we have not heard a single voice raised in protest against these destructive operations. We are used to such a stance from these quarters after the way they have dealt with the revolution of the children of the stones inside the occupied land. He said it is also regrettable not to hear voices calling for a cease-fire and a halt to the current war. He stated that the Tunisian people reject this situation. [passage omitted]

'Several Thousand' Volunteer To Aid Iraq

LD2301122291 Paris International Service in French 0635 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] In Tunis, demonstrations of support for Iraq continue in the form of numerous candidates to fight on the side of the Iraqi forces. From Tunis, Rida Boughezi:

[Boughezi] According to a Tunisian trade union source, the 280 committees of support for Iraq set up since the beginning of the Gulf crisis have recorded, so far, several thousand volunteers ready to join the front on the Iraqi side. Six thousand volunteers have been registered in the region of Tunis, according to the same source. A group of Tunisian doctors—35 specialists, including several women—is also preparing to join the Iraqi hospitals.

On the other side, a campaign of blood collection the authorities called for started this morning. According to the Health Ministry, this operation, which will continue until next Sunday, is held in response to the wish of many citizens and social and political organizations to donate their blood to the brotherly Iraqi people. Other collections of medicines and blankets are envisaged by the Tunisian trade union, UGTT, which will stage with political parties a new demonstration Thursday to support Iraq. Tomorrow, a big meeting will be held in Tunis called by the RCD [Democratic Constitutional Assembly], the government party, and will be chaired by the Tunisian prime minister.

Blood Donor Campaign for Iraqis Organized

LD2301095891 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Excerpt] In implementation of the resolution issued by the Political Bureau of the Democratic Constitutional Assembly at its latest meeting under President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, a blood donor campaign has begun throughout the provinces of the republic in solidarity with the Iraqi people who are the target of intensive attacks by the forces allied against it in this war. Citizens have responded to this campaign in large numbers.

The Ministry of Public Health announces that in response to the wish of many citizens and political and social organizations to donate blood for the fraternal Iraqi people, and out of eagerness to enable the citizens to do this noble humanitarian action in the best circumstances, it has been decided to organize blood collection in accordance with the following arrangements:

The campaign will last from the morning of Tuesday 22 January until the evening of 27 January. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Iraqi Missiles Said Destroyed 'North of Gulf'

NC2401055691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, 23 Jan [date as received] (WAKH)—Official Bahraini sources stated tonight [23 January] that Iraqi missiles were detected in midair north of the Gulf and were destroyed by antiballistic missiles.

The Civil Defense Department sounded a siren at about 2300, indicating a possible incoming danger. Another siren was sounded after a short time indicating that the danger was over.

Defense Minister Views Security, Civil Defense

NC2301174491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1205 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, 23 Jan (WAKH)—Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Muhammad Al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of defense and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, stated that the Defense Force has made all the necessary security and defensive preparations and precautions to secure citizens' safety during the current situation in the region.

At a news conference today, the defense minister said that the Defense Force's monitoring groups are constantly looking for any possible sources of danger and passing the information to the Civil Defense Department so that it can alert citizens with sirens.

He praised the coordination between the Bahraini Defense Force and the Civil Defense Department. Shaykh Khalifah thanked the Bahraini people and officials for their cooperation, self-control, and calmness, and for implementing instructions and directives issued by the competent bodies in these circumstances.

The minister then answered the journalists' questions on the various preparations made by the Defense Force in light of current developments.

Gulf Air Flight Schedules in Region Listed

NC2301184591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, 23 Jan (WAKH)—As of tomorrow, Thursday, Gulf Air has decided to operate two regular daily flights from Bahrain to Abu Dhabi and Muscat and return on the Tristar according to the following schedule:

Flight No.	Route	Departure	Arrival
GF361	Muscat-Bahrain	0600	0630
GF362	Bahrain-Muscat	1600	1800
GF365	Abu Dhabi-Bahrain	1445	1450 [as received]
GF366	Bahrain-Abu Dhabi	0745	0950

Flights From Al-Shariqah To Resume

NC2301141491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1220 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 23 Jan (WAKH)—Gulf Air will resume its flights from al-Shariqah International Airport beginning tomorrow, Thursday, with one flight daily via Muscat to transport passengers who want make connections with Gulf Air's flights to Karachi, Bombay, and London.

Airport sources said that Gulf Air has also decided to operate three flights weekly from al-Shariqah International Airport via Muscat to connect with the Delhi-Dhaka-Bangkok-Manila flight or the return trip.

Sudan Airways has also decided to resume its regular weekly al-Shariqah-Khartoum-al-Shariqah flight scheduled for Tuesdays.

Kuwait

UN Envoy Lauds Army, Air Force Role in War

PM2301092691 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Jan 91 p 4

[Report on a telephone interview with Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, permanent representative to the United Nations, by Nawwaf al-Shammari on 19 January—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpts] Ambassador Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, our permanent representative to the United Nations, affirmed in a telephone conversation—which AL-ANBA' had with him at his office in New York yesterday—that the outbreak of war and the multinational forces' offensive against Iraq has the full support of the international community because the offensive has international legitimacy.

He also stated that Iraq is becoming increasingly isolated from the rest of the world and that world public opinion in general and Arab public opinion in particular are fully convinced that instability in the region is due to Iraq's deliberate policy of imposing the law of the jungle and the rule of tyranny.

Ambassador Abu-al-Hasan said that Iraq's missile strike on Israel was an attempt to expand the war and draw Israel into it. Iraq, he said, had hoped it would achieve two things: creating a split in the Arab ranks, especially among the Arabs states participating in the multinational force, and arousing the Arab masses to stage demonstrations against the military action sanctioned by the international community. [passage omitted]

Our UN representative said the UN Security Council has no intention of meeting to discuss the crisis so long as the mulitinational forces are exercising their legitimate rights under the last UN resolution. That resolution empowered them to use military force to bring about the Iraqi regime's full and unconditional withdrawal from

all Kuwaiti territory and the return of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government represented by his highness the amir and his heir apparent.

Ambassador Abu-al-Hasan said that the UN Security Council is now awaiting the results of the mandate given to the mulitinational forces, and that the U.S. public stands solidly behind the U.S. Army and appreciates its courage and excellent performance. Moreover, he said, two days ago Congress expressed its full support for President Bush concerning the military action now taking place in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

On our forces' participation in the war, the ambassador said: The vanguard role played by the Kuwaiti Air Force in the first hours of the fighting has had a great impact on everyone. The American people are now assured that the Kuwaiti Army is in the forefront of the armies which have assumed, and are assuming, the honor of liberating Kuwait.

Ambassador Abu-al-Hasan added: The report about the downing of one Kuwaiti military aircraft serves as proof that Kuwait is serious about committing all its resources and mobilizing all its youth to liberate our country from the grip of the Iraqi invasion forces and expelling these forces from all Kuwaiti territory. [passage omitted]

Regarding a timeframe for ending the war, Abu-al-Hasan said: Judging by present actions and what I personally feel, the battle is folowing a normal course. The time factor, which many people seem to fear, is irrelevant.

The ambassador expressed the hope that the Iraqi dictator will come to his senses and preserve what is left of his army by fully and unconditionally withdrawing, thus facilitating the return of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government.

Concluding his statement to AL-ANBA', Ambassador Abu-al-Haasan said: I want to extend my sincere greetings to the brave Kuwaiti Army, which has insisted on being in the forefront of the forces to raid occupied Kuwait and Iraq. I also want to extend similar greetings to our steadfast people under occupation for their cohesion and refusal to cooperate with the aggresive Iraqi regime. They have won the admiration of all countries in the United Nations. The representatives have personally expressed to me their admiration for our people's steadfastness, despite the occupation, and the role of our brave army.

Editorial on Jordanian Monarchy, Palestinians

PM2301122091 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic
21 Jan 91 pp 1-2

[Editorial: "The Storm and the Dwarfs"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] The battles to liberate Kuwait are continuing daily in accordance with the program set for Operation Desert Storm. So far, the results have exceeded all expectations with only minor losses, which are far less than expected. If the Iraqi regime stubbornly continues to postpone the moment of its inevitable surrender, the biggest indication that the battle was decided from the first moment Operation Desert Storm went into action is the frenzied statements being made by Saddam's collaborators and agents among the Arab dwarfs. These clowns announced on the first day of the war that the long-awaited "mother of battles" had started and that the "historic" opportunity for Iraqi bravado and Palestinian "revolutionary" strugglers had come to confront imperialism and crush the Americans, bury them in the desert sand, and return their bodies in coffins to the United States. These same "strugglers" in the mangled leaderships of our present dirty Arab times are now crying out and appealing for a cease-fire and a return to peace moves.

These leaders are only accustomed to fighting with words and slogans. When the hour of real battle comes, however, their loud voices turn into terrified cries and the so-called revolutionary strugglers turn into mice running away from hellfire.

The chess king held a news conference demanding that peace be given another chance. This Jordanian dwarf has forgotten that he and his dictator master in Baghdad have aborted all successive peace efforts over the past five and half months up to 15 January. We do not know on what basis the little king wants to return to the vicious circle of political contacts, all of which have failed due to Iraq's intransigence. The war, which he wants stopped today, is one that the Baghdad ruler insisted on forcing on the world—without providing any other alternative. The dark future that King Husayn now sees will be dark only for him, Iraq, and all who have cooperated with them in their crimes and aggression. If the Jordanian king has discovered through his great genius that the future is bleak, why did he not also see the stark reality and injustice that befell Kuwait on 2 August?

The chess king, who is staggering now that Operation Desert Storm eliminated the pillars of his weak throne, sees only with one eye: a blundering, sinful, and malicious eye. The future he bemoans has nothing to do with him in any way, because he will have no place in it when the hour of final punishment arrives.

As for the Palestinian "president," he has again resorted to his usual speciality of waging struggle by writing letters and issuing statements. He saved his skin by fleeing from Baghdad to Tunis, claiming he went there to discuss and investigate the assassination incident involving Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid], although he knew better than anyone else all the dimensions of the assassination even before it took place. In Tunis, he began his "revolutionary" struggle, sending letters to all the European and world leaders, demanding a cessation of the war and a return to the diplomatic efforts, because a peaceful settlement—according to his skewed thinking—is always the best way to resolve the Gulf crisis. We do not know who 'Arafat is trying to deceive. Is he deceiving himself and the world, or is he hanging onto the frayed ropes of delusion before he and other members of the Palestinian

hypocricy organization are swept away by the floods unleashed by Desert Storm?

As for the other leaders of the Palestinian factions, they are overwhelmed by great terror and are fumbling around in their chaotic statements. Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] declares a general mobilization of the flimsy structures of his "liberation" movement, while Hawatimah [secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] calls for an emergency Arab summit and new Security Council resolutions, forgetting that this very Council passed 12 resolutions on the Gulf crisis, all of which were rejected by the Iraqi tyrant, his henchmen, and followers among the Palestinian dwarfs.

As for those who have chosen the method of demonstrations to face the crushing storm, we tell them: These demonstrations will not delay for a single moment the end of their master, who is hiding in his Iraqi bunker and lamenting the crimes he has committed. The louder the shouts and empty slogans of the thousands of demonstrators he has rounded up, the greater the roar of the Operation Desert Storm aircraft as they pound the strongholds of tyranny, and the closer the battle moves to its sacred objective, namely, the liberation of Kuwait.

Let the frightened mice continue their commotion and cries of help, for they will only hear the echo of their own hoarse voices and harvest only the hatred, deception, and aggression they sowed.

Resistance Reportedly Kills 35 Iraqi Soldiers

LD2401120291 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] The Kuwaiti resistance announced that the Martyr Shaykh Fahd al-Ahmad Group killed more than 35 Iraqi soldiers in their military operations inside Kuwait last Tuesday.

The group's information office said its members in the Jalib al-Shuyukh region in Kuwait blew up a police station and killed 15 Iraqi soldiers. The office added that the group members in the 10th region destroyed two Iraqi military vehicles and killed all their passengers—a total of more than 20 soldiers.

'Sources' Claim 'Heavy' Iraqi Casualties

LD2301185791 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Bushehr, Jan. 23, IRNA—The Jeddah radio in its Persian programme monitored here today quoted Kuwaiti sources as claiming that Iraqi troops had incurred heavy casualties in military operations launched by the U.S.-led Western alliance. If the report is to believed, all hospitals in Kuwait have been packed with the bodies of Iraqi troops.

The unidentified sources also claimed that on Monday alone 162 wounded Iraqi soldiers were hospitalized in a Kuwaiti hospital.

'Large Numbers' of Iraqi Troops Said Deserting

PM2301163691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 21 Jan 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "On the Fourth Day of the Liberation War Invasion Troops Disguise Themselves in Kuwaiti National Dress"]

[Text] London, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Recent reports from Kuwait confirm that large numbers of Iraqi troops have abandoned their positions and are fleeing to save their lives, while the bodies of their dead companions lie scattered over the desert as a result of the heavy bombardment by the allied forces' aircraft. Eyewitnesses say soldiers are wandering through the streets, many of them knocking on doors, seeking shelter, or asking for bread, now that the Iraqi occupation forces' supply lines have been cut as a result of the allied forces' operations. These reports are confirmed by the occupation forces' seizure of stores belonging to a food cooperative and of camels and cattle belonging to private individuals.

The reports say that the deterioration of the Iraqi occupation forces' morale has led to military indiscipline, with troops disregarding their commanding officers' orders.

Some of the units stationed in schools have abandoned their positions and taken refuge in homes. The reports say that the Kuwaiti resistance carried out operations against the occupation forces, killing at least seven soldiers in a Kuwait police station and two others in another part of the city.

The reports confirmed that the allied forces' aircraft bombed the positions of the 80th Brigade where some of the Iraqi forces' major military commands are based, shelling an ammunition dump and causing heavy losses. They also bombed the positions of the 15th Brigade and the Iraqi forces' supply center.

Reports from inside add that the air raids did indeed hit Baghdad's main television station, because Iraqi television announcers appear on screen sitting on wooden chairs and without the familiar background set. This confirms they are using a temporary transmitting station.

The reports emphasize that the Iraqi occupation forces actions continue to conflict with the principle of human rights observance.

A group of occupation troops, disguised in Kuwaiti national dress and posing as Health Ministry employees innoculating residents against poison gas, called at a number of homes. It was learned, however, that they had injected the residents with poison, and several citizens were taken to hospitals. Citizens were immediately cautioned by "good people." Iraqi troops also steal vehicles with Kuwaiti license plates, on the pretext of the owners'

lack of Iraqi documents for the car. They concentrate on pickups and large trucks, and collect them from the al-Jahra' area for use in the occupation forces' operations.

'Governor of 19th Province' Feigned Illness

PM2301161491 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 19 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Did You Know?"]

[Text] Did you know that a week before mid-January 'Aziz al-Nawman—so-called "governor" of the 19th province—pretended to be sick in order to stay away from the arena and that he was admitted to al-Rashid Military Hospital on the recommendation of Khalid al-Rashid, mayor of the capital and one of Saddam's followers?

Qatar

Air Force Raids Positions in 'Occupied Kuwait'

NC2301162691 Manama WAKH in English 1602 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, Jan 23 (WAKH)—An official source in the Qatari Armed Forces said today that Qatari warplanes carried out combat missions in the afternoon by striking at specific targets in occupied Kuwait and returned safely to base.

Saudi Arabia

Allied Forces Issue War Communique No. 6

LD2301195191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network 1800 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Communique No. 6 of Joint Command and Operations Theater read by Staff Colonel Ahmad Muhammad Rubay'an—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. If God supports you, you will not be defeated. [Koranic verse]

Military Communique No. 6 issued by the Joint Command and Operations Theater on Wednesday, 23 January 1991, the seventh day of operations:

Our forces and the sisterly and friendly forces are carrying out their duties with high morale to defend the right and ward off injustice and treacherous aggression. The events of the past 24 hours are summarized as follows:

The joint naval forces detonated one mine in the past 24 hours, bringing the total to 25.

The Joint Command has set up a special military working team to study all the subjects pertaining to the aggressor's missiles and to follow up the military counter measures, in addition to air defense measures.

Our air forces carried out about 765 successful sorties within the framework of 12,000 sorties carried out by the joint forces. The number of aircraft lost by the joint air forces totals 22 aircraft, 15 by ground fire and seven due to technical faults. Seventeen fighter planes of the aggressor were destroyed in air battles.

The aggressor shelled a number of border positions; their artillery was silenced by Saudi artillery and the joint air forces. There were no casualties or losses as a result of the aggressor's shelling.

This morning a unit of the friendly land forces clashed with an aggressor land unit. An exchange of fire ensued, resulting in two soldiers of the friendly forces receiving light wounds. They were treated and returned to their units. Six Iraqi soldiers were captured; they will be handed over to the Saudi authorities at a later date.

Joint Command Issues Statement on Scud Attacks

LD2301233991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2320 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Jan (SPA)—In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Evil will only harm those who plan it. [Koranic verse] A spokesman at the Joint Command and Operations Theater made the following statement:

1. At 2300 this evening the Iraqi aggressor fired two Scud missiles in the direction of the eastern region. One of them was intercepted and was detonated in the air, while the other fell into the sea.

2. At 2305 this evening, the Iraqi aggressor fired two Scud missiles in the direction of Riyadh. They were intercepted and detonated in the air.

3. At the same time (2305), the Iraqi aggressor fired one missile in the direction of Hafr al-Batin. It was detonated in the air.

There was no damage in those regions, praise be to God.

Rubay'an Holds News Conference on Developments

LD2301200291 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jan 91

[News conference by Staff Colonel Ahmad Muhammad Rubay'an with unidentified correspondents on 23 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Is there still a danger of Scud missiles?

[Rubay'an] We cannot say that the danger is over. From a military point of view, we must plan for the worst possibility.

[Correspondent] Colonel, do you have military information indicating that the enemy cannot use chemical materials except by aircraft? I mean, can the enemy use them by means of missiles?

[Rubay'an] We have no precise information on that.

[Correspondent] With the battle entering its seventh day today, how do you evaluate the results so far?

[Rubay'an] The battle is proceeding according to plan and with good success.

[Correspondent] You said, Colonel, that a working group specializing in Scud missiles has been set up. Why was the formation of this group delayed until today? Was it the result of the command's feeling that these missiles posed a threat?

[Rubay'an] First of all, the Civil Defense authorities are continuing to investigate. Moreover, there are groups of military engineers which began work on the first day. This will result in the pooling and concentration of all these efforts in order to reach the goal in a shorter time.

[Correspondent] You said there was an exchange of fire between the ground forces on both sides. Does this mean that the Iraqi side, because they are the ones who started it, are drawing us into a ground battle before the date is decided by us?

[Rubay'an] I cannot know what the other side is thinking, but on all military sectors, even during wars of attrition, there has always been an exchange of artillery fire along the frontlines.

[Correspondent] I read that the Egyptian paper AL-AKHBAR carried a report by an Egyptian eyewitness inside Iraq who said that he saw an air attack on Karbala'. Do you have any information on this subject?

[Rubay'an] The information I have is that the attack in all its forms is aimed at military targets.

[Correspondent] Are there military targets near Karbala'?

[Rubay'an] Sorry, I do not know. The last question, please.

[Correspondent] The Patriot missiles used in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have shown a high degree of efficiency while the ones used in Israel have not intercepted any Scud missiles yet. Is this due to the long distance or any other reason?

[Rubay'an] I cannot answer that question. Yes, sir.

[News conference continues in English] [Correspondent] Colonel can you say who are the members (?of the committee) you have just mentioned?

[Rubay'an] It is a joint committee from most of the forces represented in the coalition.

[Correspondent] Who is in charge of it and who is the senior man on this committee then?

[Rubay'an] I really do not know right now. I can bring you this news later.

[Correspondent] From what unit did the Iraqis come from that were kept? What was the unit's designation?

[Rubay'an] I do not know the unit's designation and this has been talked about with the U.S. briefer a bit earlier.

[Correspondent] Is this the first time that Iraqis have come across the border and how would they get across, with so many forces there against them.

[Rubay'an] It is always possible to come across if you are the one who lay the obstacles.

[Correspondent] How can you be certain that these individuals were not in the process of trying to defect? Then we had a fire fight that resulted in the six of them being taken prisoner. I mean what evidence do we have that this was an offensive patrol of theirs?

[Rubay'an] If it was not offensive they would not fire and wound the U.S. soldiers and they may (?wave) their white flags.

[Correspondent] So you know that they fired first?

[Rubay'an] I don't know.

[Correspondent] You were talking about suppressing Iraqi artillery fire with the use of missiles and artillery. What type of missiles have been fired by the allies?

[Rubay'an] I am talking about the MLRS.

[Correspondent] Excuse me?

[Rubay'an] The multi-launch rocket systems.

[Correspondent] Were they used by Saudi forces or American Forces?

[Rubay'an] By the coalition forces.

[Correspondent] Would you point out for us approximately on your ma, where the skirmish that evolved in the Iraqi prisoners being taken actually happened? I understand it was on the Saudi-Iraqi border not the Kuwaiti border.

[Rubay'an] I cannot give you an exact location, I am sorry.

[Correspondent] Can you confirm it was not on the Kuwaiti border though?

[Rubay'an] Now I can confirm it was at the south of the border.

[Correspondent] In 1988, Saudi Arabia bought CSS-2 missiles from China. Is there any consideration to using those missiles against Iraq if Scud attacks against Saudi Arabian cities continue?

[Rubay'an] I cannot comment on that. The joint forces are doing what is planned to be done. I will take one more question, please.

[Correspondent] Was this the first time that Iraqis, a patrol or anything, have come across the border or in fact do they kind of wander just across the border? Have they done it before?

[Rubay'an] To the best of my knowledge this is the first time except if they are defectors. This, please, will be the last question.

[Correspondent] Have there been any Scud attacks into Saudi Arabia that have not provoked an alarm, because I was told yesterday there was one in Dharan and there were eyewitnesses to it but no alarm went off?

[Rubay'an] There was no confirmed Scud attack last night. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

Defense Minister Visits Ground Forces Command

LD2301172791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1638 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, defense minister, and inspector general, this afternoon visited the ground forces command. He was welcomed on arrival by Staff General Muhammad al-Hamad, chief of the General Staff, and Staff Lieutenant General Yusuf 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid. Immediately after his arrival at the operations center, the commander of the ground forces gave a speech welcoming his highness. The ground forces commander also gave a briefing on the general condition of the ground forces. His highness also heard reports from commanders in regard to their respective areas.

His highness visited the air defense operations center where he was welcomed by Staff Major General Majid Talhav al-Utaybi [name as received], engineer and acting commander of the air defense forces. Senior officers there were present. His highness heard a briefing by one of the senior officers on the tasks being carried out by the air defense forces to defend the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Visits Air Force, Navy Commands

LD2401153891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1445 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense minister and inspector general, visited the Royal Saudi Air Force Command today. On arrival he was welcomed by Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hamad, chief of the General Staff, and senior Air Force officers.

Later Prince Sultan went to the Air Force operations center where he was briefed by Air Force Brigadier General Ahmad Musa'id al-Sudayri, commander of Air Force operations, on the tasks carried out by the Air Force to defend the Kingdom's air space.

Next he went to the Royal Saudi Naval Forces Command where he was welcomed by Navy Staff Lieutenant General Talal Mufdi, commander of naval forces, and Navy Major General Fahd Bin-'Abdallah, deputy commander of the naval forces. Prince Sultan went to the command and control center where he was briefed on the tasks carried out by the naval forces to defend the Kingdom's coastline.

Prince Sultan then departed. He was seen off with the same hospitality and honor as he received when he arrived.

Iraqi Forces Reportedly Occupy Saudi Territory

LD2301123391 Tehran IRNA in English 1145 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—Iraqi ground forces launched attacks on the U.S.-led allies forces in Saudi Arabia, early Wednesday morning.

According to reliable reports reaching IRNA from Iraq, the Iraqi forces have apparently occupied parts of the Saudi territory near the border between the two countries.

No details are yet available, but other reports say that the Iraqi forces have captured a group of soldiers near the Saudi Arabia-Kuwait border. The reports have not yet been confirmed by other sources.

INA Cited on Desertion of Officers to Jordan

NC2301124191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the Saudi Army is currently witnessing large-scale desertions. Meanwhile, tribesmen in Najd and Hejaz have begun seeking refuge in remote areas of the desert. The agency has learned that the price of bedouin tents in Najd and Hejaz have skyrocketed.

Information indicates that approximately 60 officers of various ranks ranging from second lieutenant to colonel have deserted to Jordan in the past few days.

United Arab Emirates

President Sends Messages to Gorbachev, Havel

NC2301124391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has sent a written message to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on developments in the Gulf crisis and the battle for the liberation of Kuwait in light of the ongoing events in the region.

His highness expressed his appreciation for the firm Soviet stand in support of international legitimacy and against Iraq's aggression against the State of Kuwait, its intransigence and insistence on continuing its brutal aggression, and its rejection of all initiatives calling on it to withdraw from Kuwait.

His highness added that the Soviet position on the side of right and justice had had a deterrent effect on the Iraqi aggression and had consolidated the international efforts to liberate Kuwait.

His highness sent a similiar message to Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel on the current situation in the region and the ongoing events.

The two messages, which were conveyed through diplomatic channels, were in response to similar messages his highness received recently from Presidents Gorbachev and Havel.

Normal Traffic Resumes at Dubayy Airport

NC2401140291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1220 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Dubayy, 24 Jan (WAKH)—Muhammad Ahli, director of operations at the Civil Aviation Department, has stated that Dubayy International Airport is open to normal air traffic, and the airport currently handles 15 transit flights by the Emirates airline company, Gulf Air, EgyptAir, Pakistan International Airlines, and Air India.

He said a number of airlines have actually resumed their flights via the airport such as Air India which began as of yesterday to operate a daily flight to Bombay, Pakistan International Airlines which yesterday began operating one daily flight to Karachi, in addition to the Emirates airline company which will be operating 80 percent of its flights as of 25 January. It will resume its flights to Cairo at the rate of two flights a week. It is also operating transit flights via the airport to Europe including London, Frankfurt, Manchester, the Far East, and the Indian subcontinent.

It also resumed its flights to Bandar-e 'Abbas as of yesterday and will resume its flights to Tehran next Saturday. Gulf Air will operate a daily Dubayy-Muscat-Dubayy flight.

British Airways will resume its flights from Dubayy to London via Muscat tomorrow, Friday. EgyptAir will operate special Dubayy-Cairo flights today, tomorrow, Friday, and next Monday.

Yemen

Salih Urges U.S., Others To Heed Peace Calls

EA2301195691 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, held a news conference in Sanaa before noon today with a number of brother representatives of Arab and foreign news agencies, radios, and newspapers. He spoke of our country's principled and firm position since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, explaining the endeavors and efforts of our country to contain the crisis in the face of the aggression of the United States and its allies against the brotherly Iraqi people. Brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih called on the international and human society, headed by the United States, to interact and comply with the peace calls.

Al-Iryani on Presidential Council's Statement

EA2301173091 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani explained that the Presidential Council's statement issued yesterday can be characterized in two ways: first, as an expression of the feelings burning in the minds of Yemeni society against what is going on against brotherly Iraq; and second, as a six-point proposal for resolving the Gulf crisis.

In an interview to Radio Sanaa today, the brother foreign minister said the states that control the UN Security Council are not ready to issue a resolution to stop the Gulf war in accordance with what was mentioned in the first point of the statement of the Presidential Council. This means that the intention to destroy brotherly Iraq still exists. He affirmed that what is going on now is unacceptable and that the Arab homeland, the Middle East, and the entire region will not achieve security and stability except by implementing the six points mentioned in the Presidential Council's statement. He explained that there is no one who says these six points are not a true program for achieving peace in the region.

In reply to a question about our country's efforts in the UN Security Council to stop the aggression against brotherly Iraq, Dr. al-Iryani explained that our country is applying political pressure in its dealings and that coordination is going on with the group of nonaligned states by virtue of our country's membership in the UN Security Council and with other Arab states which are also striving for political pressure on the United States and its

allies to stop the destruction which it is launching on Iraq and to seek peaceful solutions that are approved by all.

Council of Ministers Views Latest Developments

EA2301202691 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. The Council examined the latest developments in light of the continuing military aggression of the U.S. forces and their allies against the brotherly Iraqi people. It reaffirmed the condemnation of the international covenants and charters, human values and conventions, and the spirit and letter of the UN Charter.

The Council highly appreciated the sincere, intensive efforts that were and are being exerted by the political leadership since the crisis began in order to contain and solve it peacefully within the framework of Arab and international legitimacy.

The Council also emphasized the need to continue political efforts on the basis of the Yemeni peace initiative and the statement of the Presidential Council which was issued on 21 January 1991, in order to achieve an immediate halt to the miltary operations, provide an opportunity for Arab and Islamic peaceful solutions, and create suitable circumstances for implementing the resolutions of the UN Security Council which deal with all the issues of the region, headed by the issue of the Palestinian people and the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Council of Representatives Reviews Gulf Crisis

EA2401102891 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] In a session held this morning under the chairmanship of Brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the council, the Council of Representatives continued to review developments and events in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf region, and the aggression to which the brotherly Iraqi people are being exposed by the United States and its allies. The Council also reviewed the true aims of this unjust aggression, represented by the destruction of the economic, military, and technical capabilities of the Iraqi people, and the imposition of a complete hegemony on the destiny of the Arab and Islamic nation by the lowering of its dignity, the consequent weakening of the region, controlling the region, its potentials, and sources of wealth through the setting up of more military bases and the spreading of foreign influence. The Council said: This is a matter that will lead to the fragmentation of regional states and their transformation into centers of permanent tension and conflict, a situation that will eventually pose a threat to world security, stability, and peace.

In this context, the brother representatives of the people stressed the importance of reinforcing the external political activity of the Council of Representatives, particularly in these critical circumstances, with the parliaments of sisterly Arab and Islamic states, as well as with other friendly states, toward crystallizing the Yemeni stand and its renewed initiatives regarding the crisis and means of solving it, and for the sake of unifying the Arab and Islamic efforts to stop this aggressive war and support our Iraqi people in their just defense of their homeland and dignity, as well as to consult and coordinate to find comprehensive practical solutions to the regional issues, particularly the Palestinian issue.

In this connection, the Council approved our country's participation in a parliamentary delegation to the next meeting of the Union of Arab Parliamentarians scheduled to be held at the beginning of next week in the Republic of Algeria. It also approved endeavors to continue external contacts in a manner that will reinforce the role of the Yemeni Parliament and its contribution with the parliaments of sisterly and friendly states in order to cooperate in exterminating all sources of tension and in entrenching security and stability and confronting collectively the advocates of war and warmongers. The Council will continue its business on 26 January.

Peace, Solidarity Council Launches Peace Campaign

EA2301115591 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] The Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity has appealed to national public opinion to make a success of the popular campaign of collecting signatures which the council launched yesterday in the interests of exerting good and effective efforts in favor of peace and stability in the Middle East region in general, and the Gulf in particular. The council also hopes to stop the military aggression under U.S. leadership with its allies against brotherly Iraq, as well as to preserve human rights that are being disregarded by the multinational forces, which have tossed aside international conventions while proceeding to implement their strategic designs.

In its appeal issued today, the council called on Arab and international councils of peace and solidarity to organize similar campaigns aimed at exerting international pressure to stop this destructive war and resort to just and peaceful talks. The council pointed out that the wheel of history is moving forward and it will be difficult for Washington and its allies to roll it back.

INA Reports Saddam Visit to Southern Front

NC2401122191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA)—President leader Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn visited the operations sector of the southern front yesterday, 23 January 1991, where he met with a number of the commanders and some members of the General Command.

After being briefed on the developments in the course of the war, the mother of battles, the commanders stressed that the enemy, because of its cowardice and fear of the confrontation with the ground troops, has avoided engaging in any serious contact with our valiant ground sectors. Instead, the enemy has been busy, or has kept itself busy, with public opinion—with aerial bombardment. Despite all it has done in this respect, our sacrifices in all ground sectors of operations of the Armed Forces up to 23 January from the air bombardment, after more than 10,000 air sorties, are only approximately 90 martyrs. May God's gracious mercy encompass our honorable martyrs.

President leader Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn issued the necessary directions and emphasized that in today's duel the forward edge of the frontline and the farthest distance our aircraft, missiles, and ground defense can reach are linked to the most remote farm, popular gathering, factory, or school in all four corners of Iraq. He added that any situation in any place will find an extension, after God Almighty, in the great depth of this glorious people and our glorious nation. [sentence as received]

He added: After the enemy's methods and potential have become adequately clear, after it has transpired that its willpower belongs to this world and that it relies entirely on the technology it has been using and it does not expect any more advanced technologies to be put to use, willpower and patience are the basis for deciding the battle, and as the Iraqis have right and faith on their side, they will be victorious, God willing. The Iraqis' will in steadfastness and patience will be the superior one and that of the infidels will be inferior, God willing.

It is only a matter of time before the enemy becomes convinced that it has done all it can and that the Iraqis are determined to confront it and triumph over it, as they would be even if their resources were fewer than what God has bestowed on them, just as their forefathers did before in dealing with two empires which dominated the world and strewed the paths of life with thorns and blood at the dawn of the great Islam.

The material losses suffered by Iraq can only be compensated by a victory in which the doors will be opened to a limitless future and in which God will compensate whoever He wishes with a position appropriate to what he did and to his sacrifices and will compensate Iraq with what it deserves of stability and economic prosperity, based on faith and great spiritual enrichment.

It is only a matter of time before the invaders leave and glorious and faithful Iraq achieves all this, God willing, and Palestine and the other Arab territories will be liberated, before the Ka'bah and the tomb of the Prophet will be liberated. History, God willing, will then record a profound change in the level of human relations among people and between the sons of the one nation, and light will drive darkness out so that justice, fairness, and virtue will prevail.

British Pilot Robert Stewart Claimed Captured

NC2301174391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1722 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] In compliance with the directives of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, Iraq's sons daily add further noble and national positions to their immortal, national, and pan-Arab record. Citizens Jabbar Hajjul Sha'lan and 'Ali Salih Mahdi Nasir have captured an enemy pilot downed by Iraqi fire in an area between the the governorates of (?al-Anbar) and al-Basrah. The two citizens handed over the man, a British Tornado pilot named Robert Stewart, along with all of his equipment, to the command of one of the Ba'th Party branches.

Captured U.S., Italian Pilots Interviewed

NC2301203291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1745 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Unidentified interviewer speaks Arabic throughout the interview; both pilots speak English throughout; questions and answers translated by unidentified interpreter]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, the Television of the Republic of Iraq tonight showed a filmed interview with two captured pilots, one American and the other Italian. The following is a recording of the interview:

[Begin recording] [Interviewer] Your name, rank, and nationality?

[Zaun] My name is Jeffrey Norton Zaun. I am lieutenant, the U.S. Navy.

[Interviewer] Your age?

[Zaun] I am 28.

[Interviewer] Name of your unit, squadron, and the type of aircraft you were flying?

[Zaun] I am from VA-35, U.S.S. Saratoga, in the Red Sea. I fly an A-6.

[Interviewer] What was your feeling while flying over Iraq to launch an aggression on it?

[Zaun] Myself and the other pilots talked about what interest the United States had for going to war. And we could find none. This was before the war. And now, we wonder whether American blood can be so cheap in the eyes of our government officials.

[Interviewer] What are the losses suffered by the U.S. Air Force before you fell into captivity?

[Zaun] Our losses are very great. I can tell you that this was one of the main reasons for the fear of American pilots flying against Iraqi defenses. We were talking together and we felt that Iraq has some of the best antiaircraft systems and the losses to these systems in some aircraft have been very great and were leading to American pilots objecting to being in this conflict.

[Interviewer] Every war has a cause. You have no cause and yet you have attacked Iraq. Iraq is not your enemy and is not an enemy of the American people. Suppose you were killed in this fighting, what would be written on your tomb? What would be your cause after you had flown your plane and struck at the Iraqi people, including women and children?

[Zaun] I think that this war is unjust and I hope that I will be remembered for not wanting to participate in harming the Iraqi people.

[Translator in Arabic] This is an inhumane war and without a cause. I hope that people will remember me for being of one of those who did not want to participate in this aggression against the Iraqi people.

[Interviewer] Is there any advice you want to give to your colleagues, the pilots?

[Zaun] I am lucky to be alive. And I am lucky to have the chance to go home and see my family home again. They who follow me may not have this opportunity.

[Translator in Arabic] I am lucky to be still alive. I may have the chance to see my family again. They may not have this chance.

[Interviewer] [question indistinct].

[Translator in English] Could you identify yourself; your name, your rank, and nationality?

[Coccioline] (?My) name is Murizio Coccioline, Captain from the Italian air force.

[Interviewer] How old are you?

[Coccioline] I am 28 years old.

[Interviewer] Your unit, squadron, and the type of the aircraft you were flying?

[Coccioline] I am from 155 Squadron and we were flying a Tornado aircraft.

[Interviewer] From which base did you take off with your aircraft?

[Coccioline] Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates [UAE].

[Interviewer] How was your aircraft shot down?

[Coccioline] I don't know which system shot me down.

[Interviewer] Why?

[Coccioline] [Word indistinct] very fast, it was night. So I don't know.

[Interviewer] What are your feelings when you fly your aircraft in Iraq's skies to carry out aggression against its people?

[Coccioline] I didn't feel very good [word indistinct], because I knew the strength in the technology of the Iraqi Air Force and defenses [words indistinct]. I was very, very lucky to stay alive.

[Translator in Arabic] Actually, I was very afraid because I know the Iraqi technology and because the Iraqi Air Force and Iraqi air defenses are very capable and advanced. I consider myself very lucky because I am still alive. Every war has a case. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Military Communiques Outline Situation

'Details' of 23 Jan Attacks

NC2301183591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Communique No. 17, issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The whole world is paying homage to our great people, who are fighting U.S. imperialism, destroying the waves of its aggression, standing fast against it, and marching ahead on the path of victory, supported by God's care and honorable men everywhere. Throughout the past few days, the forces of tyranny have failed even to scratch the Iraqis' steadfastness or the elements of victory, which our people and country possess. They will also fail to do so in the days to come. The aggressors' challenges will even make us stronger and more determined and will reveal what is (?hidden) of our country's resources, which the aggressors have not taken into account.

Following are the details of the enemy's aggressions and our fighters' response to them:

1. The enemy continued its air and missile aggressions against civilian neighborhoods and population centers in our cities and villages, and according to the following:

At 2347 yesterday, enemy warplanes raided the al-Anbar Governorate.

At 2355 yesterday, enemy warplanes, accompanied by an AWACS warning airplane, crossed our international borders with Turkey to commit aggression against some populated areas in al-Ta'mim Governorate.

At 0005 today, enemy planes raided Baghdad.

At 0035, enemy warplanes raided al-Ta'mim Governorate.

At 0205, enemy warplanes raided the city of Basra.

At 0220, enemy warplanes raided the city of al-Kut.

At 0227, enemy warplanes raided Baghdad.

At 0252, enemy warplanes raided the cities of al-'Amarah, al-Kahla', and Qal'at Salih in Maysan Governorate.

At (?0655), enemy warplanes raided Dhi Qar Governorate.

At 0725, enemy warplanes also raided Dhi Qar Governorate.

At 0745, the enemy fired one of its missiles in the direction of Baghdad.

At 0930, enemy warplanes raided the city of al-Kut and the district of al-'Aziziyah in Wasit Governorate.

At 2105 yesterday, enemy warplanes raided the city of al-Faw.

At 0200 and at 0252, enemy warplanes raided the [Kuwaiti] Bubiyan Island in al-Basrah Governorate and Umm Qasr Port, also in al-Basrah Governorate.

At 1000 today, enemy warplanes raided the city of Basra.

At 1010, enemy warplanes raided the city of al-Kut. At the same time, other aircraft raided the ports of al-Bakr and al-'Amiq in al-Basrah Governorate.

At 1110, enemy warplanes raided the city of al-Diwaniyah in al-Qadisiyah Governorate.

At 1125, the enemy raided the al-Anbar Governorate.

At 1145, the enemy raided the city of al-Nasiriyah.

At 1147, enemy aircraft raided the city of Basra, the Umm Qasr port, and Qasabat Safwan in the al-Basrah Governorate. At the same time, the enemy raided the city of al-'Amarah and the Qal'at Salih district in the Maysan Governorate.

At 1150, the enemy raided the city of Kirkuk.

At 1300 and 1345, hostile aircraft raided several residential areas in the al-Anbar Governorate.

At 1415, enemy aircraft raided the city of Tikrit in the Salah al-Din Governorate.

Enemy aircraft tried to attack our brave formations on the battle fronts. Our ground and air defenses confronted them, inflicting losses in the aircraft and keeping the rest away from the positions of our formations. Our losses in personnel were eight martyrs and 12 wounded. May God have mercy on our martyrs and grant our wounded quick recovery.

3. In order for their citizens, our Arab nation, and for world public opinion to be aware of the crimes being committed by the Americans and their allies and agents against peaceful citizens, we will list these acts of aggression during the past two days:

a. In Baghdad: A fire broke out in a house in the al-Salihiyah area and a civilian vehicle was burned. Three people were martyred and three others wounded on street No. 52. Bombs fell on a car park and on the al-Zuhur primary school, and on five houses in residential areas in the Nu'ayriyah and Kayyarah districts. A fire broke out in a house in the al-Qadisiyah quarter, another in a house in Saddam City. Bombs and an unexploded missile fell in the Dur al- Shuhada' area. The enemy bombed a residential quarter in al-Waziriyah and al-Amin al-Thaniyah. Two civilains were martyred and four others wounded in the 28 Naysan residential complex plus the destruction of four houses as a result of the fall of a hostile plane.

b. In the Karbala' Governorate: Thirteen citizens have been martyred and 21 others wounded. A residential quarter has been damaged in Karbala' Governorate. Two unexploded missiles were found in the villages of [name indistinct] in al-Hindiyah district and in another village in al-Husayniyah area.

c. In the al-Najaf Governorate: 13 people have been martyred and one injured in the al-Amin quarter. Four citizens have been wounded in the districts of al-Kufah and al-Manadhirah and several vehicles damaged.

d. In the Salah al-Din Governorate: Air raids were staged against the city of Tikrit and the districts of Samarra' and [place name indistinct], which left three people martyred.

e. In the Diyala Governorate: Residential quarters in the cities of Balad Druz, al-Miqdadiyah, and al-Khalis were bombarded and a number of houses were damaged as as result.

f. In the Al-Anbar Governorate: A civilian was martyred, three others injured, 16 head of livestock killed, two civilian vehicles destroyed, and a house was demolished in the district of [name indistinct]. Three people were martyred and another injured in the al-Qa'im district. Two people were martyred and seven others wounded and fire broke out in a pharmacy in the city of al-Ramadi. The martyrdom of 25 citizens and the wounding of nine others in al-Nukhaym. [sentence as heard] A woman was martyred and four citizens wounded in (?al-Ardakiyah) area in the (?al-Saqlawiyah) area. A house was destroyed in the same area and three citizens martyred and nine women and children were wounded. A house and a civilian vehicle were destroyed in al-Ramadi. A children's milk plant was destroyed in the [name indistinct]. A poultry farm was destroyed in al-Ramadi city.

G. In the Babylon Governorate: Air raids were staged against residential areas in al-Mahmudiyah, [name indistinct], and al-Iskandariyah, wounding four people.

Brother citizens, this is Western civilization and this is how the ruling clique in the United States and the Atlantic countries, with the criminal failure George Bush at their head understand democracy and human rights. One of Bush's claims is that he will fight the Iraqi forces, but we find him targetting civilian citizens—women and children. He also sends his planes to a medicine warehouse, a plant for producing children's milk, [words indistinct], and a school for small children, who are God's beloved ones.

However, the time has come for this coward to fight the Army of Iraq. Can this Zionist force out the hatred he has in his heart against the Iraqi people—men, women,

and children? The time has come too for the rulers of the Saudi Kingdom, those who have desecrated the Ka'bah and the Prophet's tomb to [word indistinct) the tomb of Imam 'Ali and the tomb of the Prophet's beloved one [al-Husayn Ibn-'Ali], the master of all martyrs.

We have fulfilled everything we promised. By God, our revenge will be devastating and forceful, and we will strike their armies and agents in the same manner we strike stray camels to make them an example for those who do not want to learn lessons and those who try to commit aggression against the peoples.

4. Our officers and soldiers in our missile force and in our air and ground defenses continue their holy jihad to shred the myth of the invincible United States. They succeeded in shooting down eight planes and captured several of the barbaric enemy's pilots who were distributed to vital targets.

Proceed with further painful blows against the enemies of God, the homeland, and mankind. God is our protector and guide.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 6 Rajab, 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 23 January 1991

'Four Air Targets' Claimed

NC2401090391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0820 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Communique No. 18 issued by the Armed Forces General Command]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O sons of our beloved homeland and its faithful protectors, the sons of the valiant Armed Forces.

God is once again enabling us to fight His enemies and ours. It will not be the last, with God's Help, if they do not resort to reason, stop their aggression, halt their transgression and ambitions in this land and its resources, and then understand Iraq's clear right to its territories and resources.

If they insist on denying the rights of our people in Iraq and Palestine, using as an excuse the concern for a band of agents and traitors, and attempting to impose their double standards that justify injustice and negate right, then we have no choice but to repel evil in kind and drive it back to those who have started in defense of our territories and dignity.

Thus we struck yesterday and we will continue to strike until they stop their aggression.

Our operations and the enemy's aggressions were as follows:

1. Our heroic missile force dealt a number of blows against selected targets in occupied Palestine and Saudi Arabia as follows:
a. A blow to selected targets in Haifa port inside the occupied Palestinian territories. Our missiles hit their targets and destroyed them at 2300 yesterday.
b. At the same time, other Iraqi missiles were raining on the heads of the Al Sa'ud traitors in Riyadh, their capital.
c. At the same time, our missiles pounded the imperialist base at Dhahran, one of the staging posts for the aggression on our country.

After the mission was completed, our missile launchers returned safely, thanks to God.

Bless you, o brave and skilled men of our missile force, and looking forward to more painful blows, may God grant you success.

2. The enemy aircraft carried out 15 raids against our country until 0700 (?this morning).

3. With God's will, four air targets, both aircraft and missiles, have been downed by our missile, ground, and air defenses. High honor and dignity for you, o protectors of the dear homeland, and forward you go to break the enemy's hostile intent. May God grant us victory over the unjust people.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 17 Rajab 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 24 January 1991.

Minister Denounces 'Indiscriminate Attacks'

NC2301223491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Minister of Information and Culture Latif Nusayyif Jasim has strongly denounced the indiscriminate attacks by the imperialist-Atlantic forces on civilian areas and scientific, cultural, and economic centers in Iraq. In a statement to INA, Jasim said that these criminal acts constitute a flagrant violation of all agreements and a transgression of human rights, which Bush and his aggressive allies boast about. He added that these acts are indicative of the moral decline and inhumanity of the U.S. and Atlantic forces and expose the magnitude of their hatred of Arab Iraq, which is the beacon of the Arab and Islamic nations' renaissance.

Jasim stressed that this immoral, insane, and denounced behavior expresses the bankruptcy, disappointment, and frustration that the blatant aggression against Iraq has suffered. It also reflects the substantial losses that have occurred in their ranks, leading them to become confused, lose their balance, and be unable to distinguish among targets.

Jasim called on all good-hearted people to condemn and denounce these cowardly acts. He called on Arab strugglers to strike at U.S. and Atlantic interests in the world as a way of expressing their rejection of these insane acts.

Jasim said: We reserve the right to respond strongly to the dens of treason in the land of Najd and Hejaz and the shaykhdoms of the Arab Gulf from which the missiles and aircraft of the blatant U.S. aggression are staged.

Spokesman Condemns U.S. Attack on Oil Tankers

NC2401091591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0824 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Statement by an unidentified military spokesman; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1340 on Tuesday, 22 January, American aircraft attacked two Iraqi oil tankers loaded with oil, and the attack led to the outflow of large quantities of oil into the waters of the Arab Gulf. This will lead to the death of much marine life and cause heavy damage to the environment in the area.

The United States has already violated the sanctity of the environment, threatening human life and other creatures on our planet with grave harm through nuclear explosions and the dumping of nuclear waste as well as poisonous chemical materials anywhere. Today it committed a new crime by contaminating the waters of the Arab Gulf with oil slicks.

Iraq appeals to world public opinion, social organizations, and leading advocates of the preservation of the environment to denounce this criminal action and raise their voices against it and use whatever means they have to prevent its repetition.

Iraq is eager to safeguard man and his life and nature. It is ready to cooperate with any party to ensure an end to such crimes.

[Dated] 7 Rajab 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 24 January 1991.

Paper Claims 'Small Part of Iraq's Power' Used

NC2301171891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—With God's help, the coming days of the mother of battles will be pregnant with promise of great victory, says AL-QADISIYAH.

In its editorial today, the paper adds that Iraq's intelligent leadership, represented by the symbol, the knight Saddam Husayn, has prepared a giant force to crush and destroy the invaders and their war machine.

So far, says the paper, only a small part of Iraq's power has appeared, and only a very small portion of the capability of our air, ground, and naval forces has been used. These forces are fully ready to explode the lava of their anger on the invaders, their henchmen, and the Arab traitors in the region.

When the real fighting between men starts, adds the paper, shouts of God is great will reverberate over the battlefield, and Iraq's Army will take revenge on the U.S. scoundrels and all their invading allies. It will punish the brute force that came to destroy great Iraq only to find bitter death on land, sea, and air.

The paper says the first days of the battle proved beyond doubt that the forces of darkness and colonialism were sent to the region not only to invade it, but to undermine Iraq's resurgence and scientific progress. The invaders clearly announced this objective through their cowardly and contemptible raids on civilian, scientific, and economic centers, and even places of worship, notes the paper.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: While recalling these ever-present facts, the heroic Iraqi fighter will deal strong and fierce blows when the hour of the honorable and true battle comes; his only aim will be to kill the largest possible number of the invaders. The sand will turn into pools of blood for them to swim in, and their bodies will be scattered throughout the battlefield.

The myth of U.S. technology, adds the paper, collapsed in the first days. The men of our air and missile defense crushed this technology and reduced their planes, of which they have been boasting, into piles of iron on the ground. These planes never escaped our fire, although the pilots sneaked in like cowards under the cover of darkness, dropping their cargo on our people and centers of our progress but evading confrontation with the heroes of Iraq, who believe strongly in their cause and who are in sharp contrast with the shameless aggressors and foreigners who have no values or ethics.

The paper concludes by saying that this is a fateful battle; it will truly be the mother of battles, with comprehensive goals and terrible days for Bush and his henchmen. O brave fighters in the front of justice, let the days of the invaders be tough and fatal. With your strikes, make them count the seconds, the minutes, the hours, the days, the months, and the years if necessary. The mother of battles, through which all the Arabs, Mecca, the grave of Prophet Muhammad—peace be upon him—and holy Jerusalem will be liberated, is worthy of all sacrifice.

Paper: Fahd Responsible for 'Every Drop of Blood'

NC2301172391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—AL-THAWRAH holds traitor Fahd responsible for every drop of blood shed by an Iraqi child, elderly person, man, and woman and for the destruction of any mosque attacked by the bombs of aggression.

In its editorial today, the newspaper says: Fahd, who has fallen into the mud of defeat, has proven that he is the descendant of Abraha al-Ashram [the Abyssinian commander who invaded Mecca in the sixth century A.D. to destroy al-Ka'bah]. He has also proven that he is an instrument of aggression against the fortress of victory and the honorable Arab will, the struggling [mujahid] Iraq, when he spends billions of dollars on the criminal

and usurper Zionist entity and its evil allies in order to halt Iraq's progress and obstruct its scientific, industrial, and economical development.

The paper adds: Like his forefathers, who hated Islam's great, virtuous, and benevolent men, the betrayer of the two holy mosques, Fahd, has encroached upon the sacred sites in Iraq and upon the struggling [mujahid] leader Saddam Husayn, who is leading the gathering of the faithful and benevolent people.

The paper stresses that the mother of battles has started and that the great fight of the faithful struggling [mujahid] gathering against the gathering of infidels and the midgets is now to mete out just punishment. Their punishment will be of the kind that will always be a deterrent for anyone entertaining the idea of betraying the present and future of the Arab nation.

U.S. 'Miscalculations,' Iraqi 'Shrewdness' Noted

NC2401095891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0748 GMT 24 GMT 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brother citizens: What is perhaps attracting the attention of observers of events in the region is that the estimates of American military power which American officials and the information media—mobilized by Western intelligence—have been talking about have proved, beyond any doubt, to be completely inaccurate—their much trumpted technological superiority is no longer of any use to them in the face of the Iraqis' insistence on seizing the victory, regardless of the strength of the enemies.

During the battles of the past few days, it has become apparent to impartial observers that Iraq, which is waging its just war against the United States and its allies, is not a power to be underestimated and that it is able to confront and defeat this aggression. The battle, the main stages of which the Americans had planned to accomplish within a few hours or days, has begun taking a new course—the course planned by Iraq. America wanted a quick war, but Iraq will make this war a protracted one, which will weaken the capabilities of the hostile alliance. Washington wanted this war to be similar to the June 1967 war, so as to destroy the Iraqi military intfrastructure, but this war has gone in a direction the Americans did not expect. Therefore, many impartial voices have begun talking about the critical American position in view of the battles taking place. There have been several admissions in the United States regarding the impregnability of the Iraqi defenses against raiding aircraft.

Perhaps what surprises the Americans and their allies does not surprise us in Iraq. Past experience has enabled the Iraqi people to consider all possibilities and surprise the enemy. This showdown in the mother of battles proves the miscalculations of the enemy and the shrewdness of the Iraqi planners.

We in Iraq draw strength from our deeply rooted cultural heritage and our glorious contemporary history which is full of sacrifices, vigilance, and planning, determined to continue on the course in which we believe and for which we have long struggled. As for the enemy, they will continue to suffer chaos and [word indistinct] as long as the [words indistinct] deals them heavy blows which will force them to recognize the usurped rights of the Arab immediately, without detraction, or [words indistinct] criteria. Until this day, we will continue to deal heavy blows to the enemies and their agents.

Paper Says 'Powerful Response' in 'Early Stages'

NC2401123991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0908 GMT 24 GMT 91

[Editorial from 24 January AL-JUMHURIYAH: "Bush's Disappointment"]

[Text] At the end of the first week of resistance to the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against Iraq, the planners of the aggression and those participating in its implementation have discovered the bitter truth which they tried to ignore before the start of the aggression and during its first two days. This truth is that the clash with Iraq is extremely costly and leads those involved in it to a fate which they were eager to avoid; that is, involvement in a prolonged war that will exact a heavy toll and end in failure.

Iraq's resistance to the aggression and the strength, composure, and spirit which characterizes this resistance show that the aggressors are moving toward this terrible fate in which they will fail to achieve a single one of their objectives and will be forced to retreat lamely from Arab territory, carrying with them images of the greatest defeat ever inflicted on an invader, occupier, and aggressor. The defeat will be [words indistinct] will be both a comprehensive military failure and [words indistinct] the heads of the allies and the agents, just as it will shake the Zionist entity and open the way for the restoration of the rights to the people of Palestine. Days will come during which the aggressors will discover the impossibility of achieving their objectives. This is because those taking part in the aggression are losing their ignorance of Iraq's steadfastness and its ability to respond.

News reports yesterday said that Bush is disappointed because of the inaccuracy of the information given to him at the beginning of the aggression against Iraq. This disappointment will increase in the coming days. [Words indistinct] the hatred against Iraq, Arabism, and Islam.

Iraq has repeatedly told the allies of evil that Iraq will not be an easy target for the aggressors, because it has never given up in the face of challenges. Bush's surprise and disappointment is no surprise to Iraq and to the leader of the gathering of believers, the mujahid Saddam Husayn. This is because Iraq has prepared very well for this showdown to boost the faith of people and fill them with increased determination and strong confidence and to fill the hearts of Bush and his allies and small agents with bitterness and disappointment.

Iraq's powerful response is still in the early stages. Additional means and capabilities which Iraq possesses will be

added. The enemies are aware of some of them, but they will learn more about them in the honorable field of battle. They will become increasingly familiar with them when their resources and means of aggression turn into smashed metal and crushed heads and when the bodies of thousands and thousands of their [words indistinct] forces.

The [words indistinct] came from a distance of thousands of kilometers to flex their muscles. They imagined that what they had calculated and planned [words indistinct] Iraq and its historic role in liberating sanctities and wealth and mobilizing the Arab nation. They learned of their predicament when they carried out the aggression against Iraq and its people. The coming days will prove to them that their [words indistinct] but a catastrophe that will befall them and a [word indistinct] the extent of which they cannot and will not know if they remain ignorant.

Rebel Group Opposes 'Destruction' of Army

NC2301112091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0940 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jan (SANA)—Brigadier General Ashraf Abu-Salih [name as received] of the Iraqi Officers Movement [IOM] stressed that Iraqi media are playing a big role in exaggerating the true image of the Iraqi military capability with the purpose of creating a pretext for a strike against it.

In an interview published today by TISHRIN, the Iraqi officer said that a group of military officers had the idea of forming the IOM following the changes brought about by the dictatorial policy in Iraq and its criminal practices. He added that these military personnel had been pensioned off because of doubts about their loyalty to the regime. This made the movement the mainstay of all honorable and free military personnel.

He said that the IOM has strategic objectives which it will seek to implement following the transitional phase set out by the movement's first communique. He added that these objectives are assembling and organizing military cadres and resources to meet the needs of the Iraqi Army to restore the military's security and defense tasks to their normal course.

In conclusion, the officer stressed that the Iraqi opposition categorically rejects the destruction of the Iraqi Army and its resources, and refuses to let the Iraqi people pay the price for the mistakes and madness of their political leadership. He called on the Arab and Islamic countries to save the Iraqis from the danger of destruction, and from the crimes of the ruling regime and its demented acts against the nation and entire humanity.

Kurdish Leader Predicts Saddam's Collapse

AU2301161391 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 23 Jan 91 p 6

[Interview with Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani by Gerhard Bitzan; place and date not given: "The Collapse of the Regime is Imminent"]

[Text] [Bitzan] Mr. Talabani, you are in daily contact with the Kurds in Northern Iraq. What is the military situation there now?

[Talabani] Large sections of the Iraqi Army are deployed in the south of the country near Kuwait. About 15 divisions are in the north. They have been attacked almost every day by the allied forces. All military bases have been destroyed, many strategic factories and power plants. There is no electricity in Kirkuk. The Kirkuk television station does not work any more. Our radio broadcasts cannot be jammed any more; that is why the people now listen to our broadcasts and the BBC broadcasts.

[Bitzan] To what extent has the civilian population been affected by the allied air raids?

[Talabani] The Kurdish people have not been hit very much. However, hundreds of thousands of people from Baghdad and Takrit, Saddam Husayn's birthplace, have fled to the north. Nonetheless, the Kurds are really happy because they believe that this war will put an end to Saddam Husayn's dictatorship. The war is hindering Saddam's regime from committing genocide among the Kurds. The end of the dictatorship will mark the beginning of salvation of the Kurdish people.

[Bitzan] What are the Kurdish parties—for instance, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan which is led by you—expecting of a post-Saddam era?

[Talabani] Our "Iraqi Front," the Kurdish umbrella organization, is currently preparing the people for the regime's imminent collapse. Such a collapse will occur before long; it is a matter of several weeks. Militarily, we stopped our operations when the Gulf crisis began, and we hoped to be able to integrate Army circles into the opposition.

[Bitzan] Do you see any symptoms of war-weariness within the Army?

[Talabani] Most soldiers are not loyal to Saddam. However, they are afraid of repression. They are waiting for the day when they can put up resistance against Saddam to save the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi people. In some regions in Kurdistan, half of the soldiers have defected, and the rest has a very poor morale. They are suffering from food shortages, lacking means of communication, and confusing command structures.

[Bitzan] What are you expecting politically of the post-Saddam era?

[Talabani] I am expecting democracy. Then opposition groups from all walks of life, from the right to the left, will be united. This bloc will be united to replace Saddam. Regarding the Kurds in particular, I hope their rights will be recognized. The Kurdish region must be represented by Kurds. However, we do not want to have an own state; we want to live within an Iraqi federation.

[Bitzan] You have repeatedly said that you are concerned about Turkish claims to get back northern Iraq. Do you think that Ankara really intends to get back that region?

[Talabani] They would if they could. Turkey has always dreamed of getting back the northern part of Iraq, which was formerly a province of the Ottoman Empire. However, the international situation would never permit that. America or Europe would never agree to Turkey taking away Arab territory. You cannot start war because of the annexation of Kuwait and then permit another annexation. I think Turkey is just sending signals to Syria and Iran to prevent them from intervening in Iraq.

[Bitzan] Why has Saddam Husayn been so inflexible on the Kuwait issue in the past months?

[Talabani] I had predicted by May—that is to say, long before the invasion—that Saddam Husayn would annex Kuwait. Being a typical fascist dictator, he must be aggressive to the outside world and repress his people at home. In addition, he was facing a number of crisis situations in the country in the economic, military, and social areas. He had to do something. However, following the logic of a dictator, he did not introduce democracy to let off steam, but started the war against Kuwait.

Former Police Chief Said Among '600' Arrested

PM2401111991 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 22 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "It Is Being Said"]

[Text] It is being said that Major General 'Abd-al-Muhsin Khalil, former Iraqi police chief, was recently arrested in the context of a large-scale arrest campaign that included "600" retired military personnel. It was said they were planning to topple Saddam Husayn and had formed a large organization within the Army and police for that purpose.

Paper Claims 11 'Senior Iraqi Officers' Defect

PM2401112391 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 23 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "It Is Being Said"]

[Text] It is being said that 11 senior Iraqi officers have fled to Iran from the air base in al-Nasiriyah, that 400 officers and men have taken refuge in Ahwar (al-Kahla') [placename as published], and that military intelligence groups failed to reman the position after the bombardment to which it was exposed four days ago.

*Germans Allegedly Built Saddam's Bunker

91P20089A Rome RAI Uno Television Network in Italian 2000 GMT 22 Jan 91

["Text" of report on Saddam Husayn's bunker by unidentified RAI Uno Television Network journalist]

[Text] Where is Saddam Husayn now? The Iraqi rais, according to many sources, is shut up in a strongly fortified bunker in Baghdad. It is from there that he follows, along with his men, all the operations of war. It [the bunker] should be located underground, exactly below where the presidential palace, now destroyed by allied bombings, stood. The bunker, built by German companies, is 18 meters deep and extends over a surface of 1,800 square meters. The walls are almost two meters thick and impenetrable steel doors are spaced throughout the access halways. The refuge can withstand temperatures up to 300 degrees [centigrade]. It is subdivided on several floors underground, next to his own private residence, and consists of living rooms and other comforts of both Western and Muslim style. It has rooms meant for storage, dormitories, kitchens, offices. There is also a small power station, and water containers with filtering systems.

Another curious thing: There is also one Italian among the four persons who know everything about the bunker because he participated in its construction.

Worker Describes Iraqi Shelters

LD2301184391 Brussels Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Belgian enterprises have built military air bases in Iraq—this was in the first half of the 1980's, when the Iran-Iraq war was in full swing, and the contracts were coming thick and fast. Thus it was that a major Belgian public works company built eight bases along Iraqi borders. Chantal Isaphe interviewed a Belgian who worked on these projects. Listen to his description of the super-shelters [super-abri] built for Saddam Husayn's planes.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified construction worker] This was construction work for military bases, aircraft bases, which consisted of building 12 shelters, apparently for French Mirages. The thickness of the concrete could have been—well, it is going back a bit now, because this was in 1983-1984—between one and a half and two meters of concrete. The shelters were laid out in the shape of a fan relative to the runway, so as to make it possible to take off (?and return in seconds). As far as I know, the runways were built by an Iraqi company. I was told that under the runways there was a thickness of concrete varying between one and a half and two meters.

[Istaphe] This was reinforced concrete, with a metal framework?

[Construction worker] Oh yes, indeed, and when I say reinforced, I mean it. The thinnest reinforcing rods were perhaps half a centimeter, and the big ones three and a half centimeters—and the concrete was Belgian concrete.

[Istaphe] Was the work you did under instructions of secrecy?

[Construction worker] Yes, we had to sign a contract under which we could not, under any circumstances, disclose the locations of the bases. [end recording]

Missile Attack 23 Jan Reported, No Injuries

Patriot Interception

TA2401045191 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0340 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpts] At 2220 last night [2020 GMT 23 January] a Scud missile was fired from west Iraq and was successfully intercepted by Patriot missiles. There were no casualties, although damage was caused because the blast of the explosion and the shards of the missile were dispersed in all directions. This was the fourth time in a week that missiles were launched at Israel, and the first time that the Patriot missiles managed to destroy a Scud missile in Israel. The battery which intercepted the Scud missile using two Patriot missiles is a U.S. battery which was positioned in northern Israel over the weekend following the two initial missile attacks on the central and northern districts. [passage omitted]

Work will continue throughout Israel today. The Israel Defense Forces held deliberations on whether to change the policy of not advocating descending to shelters during an alarm. It has been decided to continue the same policy of sealed rooms and gas masks. The high level of alert in the Air Force and on the home front is continuing. [passage omitted]

IDF Spokesman Comments

TA2301210791 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2042 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with Israel Defense Forces (IDF) spokesman Brigadier General Nahman Shay by Razi Barqay and Mikha Friedman—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] The IDF spokesman, Brig. Gen. Nahman Shay, is again on the line with us. Can you give us the full picture at this moment?

[Shay] Yes. From the report I have just received, one missile was fired from west Iraq toward Israel. It was intercepted by Patriot missiles launched from the northern part of the country, which hit it. The missile exploded and, as I said earlier, no one was hurt. The remains of the missile scattered in the north. That is it. As of this moment, the matter is finished.

[Friedman] We ask for no more.

[Barqay] This is a good beginning for the Patriot.

[Shay] Indeed, but sometimes it can do better, sometimes worse. We know now that the Patriot missile hit yesterday as well, but not in a way that could block the Scud's trajectory into Tel Aviv. We will pursue our policy of caution. The Patriot is a good missile, capable of shooting down other missiles, but it is likewise sometimes capable of missing. This evening, as I said, it hit.

[Friedman] Could you tell us who fired the Patriot, the Israelis or the Americans?

[Shay] It was fired by a U.S. battery manned by U.S. teams, which also have Israeli personnel. It is one of the batteries that have reached Israel just recently and are manned jointly by soldiers from both countries. The Americans are scheduled to leave soon. The batteries will then remain exclusively in our hands, so that I would not distinguish between them and us at this point. All in all, we all share in the defense of the country's skies and are doing an excellent job in that. [passage omitted]

[In an interview with Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 2102 GMT by Daniyel Pe'er, IDF spokesman Nahman Shay adds that the Scud warhead appears not to have carried a chemical warhead, because "we have no evidence of chemical weapons on the ground. The missile exploded in mid-air, which is sufficient grounds for me to say that it, like all the previous missiles that have so far been fired at Israel, were outfitted with conventional warheads. Still, we know that Iraq has chemical capability, although not necessarily in missile form." He also confirms that "several" Patriot missiles were fired at the Scud, although he would not specify how many.]

Patriot Systems Said To Operate Well 22 Jan

TA2301211391 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Networks in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Jan

[Text] Brigadier General Uri Ram, the commander of the Antiaircraft Forces, has said that the Patriot missile launched last night changed the trajectory of the Iraqi Scud, and it did not fall where it was aimed. After the collision, it was reported that the Scud was destroyed, but later it became apparent that its rear was hit, while the warhead continued on its trajectory and exploded in Ramat Gan. Debriefings held by the Air Force revealed that all the technical systems operated well and the Patriot missile was launched on time.

Hit Scud Engine, Missed Warhead

TA2301161191 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] One of the Patriot missiles that were fired last night at the Scud missile aimed at Israel managed to hit the Iraqi missile's engine and destroy it, but the warhead continued on its trajectory and hit the Ramat Gan residential area. This was learned by our political correspondent Arye Golan.

Chief of Staff Appreciative of Patriot Success

TA2301223491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 2210 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] The chief of staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, this evening expressed his great appreciation for the achievement of the Patriot missile battery. We shall

continue to be alert in the future, too, Shomron added. This is reported by our Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky.

Defense Aide Discusses Patriot Deployment

TA2301214791 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2103 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with Dani Nave, Defense Minister Moshe Arens' media adviser, by Mikha Friedman and Razi Barqay—live]

[Text] [Barqay] What can you tell us beyond what we have heard from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman?

[Nave] For now, not many details can be divulged. The defense minister received a report from the chief of staff and the Air Force commander a short while ago. They reported the first success of a Patriot battery in Israel. In this case, the battery was located in the northern part of the country. It launched several Patriot missiles at the Scud missile fired at Israel from western Iraq. To our deep joy and satisfaction, the Patriot battery managed to destroy the Scud and prevent a hit on Israeli territory.

[Friedman] We have just interviewed the IDF spokesman, and we wanted him to tell us mainly about the operation. From you we want to hear about the policy. Has Israel's policy of holding our fire for now remained unchanged, even after this additional launch, the second night running?

[Nave] Our policy has not changed, and remains as it was last night when we suffered a serious attack in Ramat Gan. Even today, when Patriot missiles succeeded in aborting an attack on the northern part of the country, the policy remains as it was. It is clear: We will take action, but we will decide when and how to act. Saddam Husayn will not dictate to us when or how to act. We will do that at the time and in the fashion that will best serve Israel's interests. The Patriot batteries, of course, offer better protection for the citizens of the country, and that can definitely add to the citizens' sense of security.

[Barqay] We understand that your lips are sealed with respect to Israel's operational options. So let us talk about the Patriot. Have all the batteries that had arrived from the United States been deployed and manned in the proper place? Are they all operational?

[Nave] As of now, three batteries are operational. Very soon the fourth battery will also become operational. These are batteries operated by joint U.S.-Israeli teams. The deployment of the four Patriot batteries in such a short period of time can definitely contribute nicely to the defense of the country's airspace.

I must, however, add a word of caution: As we saw last night—and as we might see in the future as well—not always do the Patriot missile batteries provide complete protection. Not always will they be able to prevent surface-to-surface missiles from falling in our territory. They are doing quite a good job, as we have seen also from reports from Saudi Arabia. They certainly add another dimension to the citizens' sense of safety, but one must always bear in mind that they cannot provide 100-percent protection.

[Friedman] Many people ask why the Patriot missile batteries were only deployed in Israel at such a late stage, after the outbreak of the Gulf war. I believe a similar question was raised today during ministerial consultations.

[Nave] This is actually a question we have also asked, and one which the defense minister, too, has raised. We wanted the Patriot missile batteries to arrive here long before 15 January, long before the war in the Gulf was expected to start. As far back as in August, David 'Ivri, the director general of the Defense Ministry, raised the issue in his talks in Washington. He was promised Patriot missile batteries. In September, when the defense minister and the foreign minister visited Washington, they were again promised Patriot missile batteries. When the prime minister arrived later, he was in turn promised the batteries. The final date for the arrival of the batteries was not set by the Israeli Government; it was set by the U.S. Administration.

[Barqay] How long will the Israeli teams piggyback with the U.S. crews? In other words, when will the activation of the Patriot missile batteries be handed over fully to Israel?

[Nave] Two batteries are operated primarily by Israeli crews that have undergone extensive training over a number of weeks. In fact, they operate the batteries independently. The battery that today succeeded in intercepting the Iraqi Scud missile is one that is actually operated by Israelis, one that is operated by an Israeli team. The battery that tried to intercept the Scud yesterday was also one that was operated by an Israeli team. The two others are manned jointly by Israeli and U.S. teams. We are hoping that it will not be long before they, too, are operated exclusively by Israeli teams.

[Friedman] Can the three operational batteries, and the fourth one, which will become operational shortly, offer the optimal defense of Israel's airspace, or do we need additional batteries?

[Nave] The best defense of Israel's airspace will be when the threat from western Iraq has been eliminated, once we know that the Iraqis no longer have the ability to launch surface-to-surface missiles from western Iraq toward our territory. We hope that day will come. At the same time, as long as the threat still exists, as long as the Iraqis still have the ability to launch missiles toward Israel, the Patriot missile batteries add a further and undoubtedly important dimension to our protection. Nonetheless, this is still not full protection for the citizens of Israel.

[Friedman] Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, thank you very much.

[Nave] Thank you and good night.

[Friedman] Good night. Let us hope we do not have to talk again tonight, at least.

[Nave] Good night to everyone.

Earlier Eagleburger Patriot Offer Said Rejected

TA2301192491 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] During his first visit to Israel, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger suggested that Patriot missile batteries be stationed in Israel. However, the ministers who met him then, Moshe Arens and David Levi, rejected the offer, claiming that they did not want U.S. troops to defend Israel, our political correspondent Arye Golan has learned. That is why the missiles arrived in Israel only after the first salvos of Scud missiles were fired.

Shamir, Eagleburger Hold 'Friendly' Meeting 24 Jan

TA2401091491 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] This morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held a brief meeting with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that this meeting concluded the talks between the two. Eagleburger is due to return to the United States today.

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's adviser, said that the meeting was good and very friendly, and that it bore the imprint of the tightening cooperation between Israel and the United States against the backdrop of the war arena activities and the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel.

From this point on, Israel and the United States will continue talks through different official levels.

More on Meeting; Soviets in Iraq

TA2401113391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Studio discussion between moderator Hayim Yavin and political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin—live]

[Excerpts] [Yavin] Another meeting between U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and Prime Minister Shamir took place this morning. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin has arrived at the studio to tell us about it. Go ahead, 'Imanu'el.

[Halperin] The concluding meeting lasted about 45 minutes. I said concluding, because Eagleburger is returning to America, although he will apparently leave tomorrow, not today. During the remaining part of the day, he will hold more talks, mainly with Defense Ministry officials. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, we tried to convince Mr. Eagleburger to divulge a few details of the meeting, but he refused to talk with us. The only details we have—although they could hardly be called details—came from Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser.

[Begin recording] [Pazner] This was the final meeting in this round of talks between the prime minister and Mr. Eagleburger, because Mr. Eagleburger is returning to the United States soon. The talk was very good, very friendly. It was characterized by the tightening cooperation between Israel and the United States in the context of activities in the war arena and particularly the Iraqi missile attacks against Israel. Mr. Eagleburger is leaving, but the talks with the Americans will continue on other levels.

[Halperin] Could you say that there is presently full cooperation? That there are no more gaps in coordination?

[Pazner] As you know, we are very cautious in divulging details. At this stage, we are pleased with the cooperation with the United States. The talks are being held in a very friendly atmosphere and with absolute trust on both sides. As said, the talks will continue on other levels.

[Halperin] Did you feel the Americans were also very pleased with the coordination?

[Pazner] You must ask them. [end recording]

[Yavin] Before we ask them, 'Imanu'el: Have the talks borne any results, or is it an ongoing process [preceding two words in English]?

[Halperin] It is an ongoing process because, as Avi Pazner said, the talks will continue. Eagleburger does not have to stay here any longer, but a few of his team members, as well as other officials, will continue the talks, with the focus being mainly on the Defense Ministry.

At the prime minister's office, I was told the following—which can be interpreted any way our viewers prefer: We have reached the best possible situation with the Americans.

[Yavin] No explanation?

[Halperin] None, at this point. The Americans, who said nothing here, may do so later today in Washington.

[Yavin] We will miss Eagleburger's special sense of humor, which seeped into the reports on his visit.

There was something else I wanted to ask you: We opened by reporting on the presence of some 100 Soviet advisers in Baghdad. Do you know anything about this?

[Halperin] Yes, we in Jerusalem knew even before the battles started that about 150 Soviet advisers had stayed on in Baghdad. Yet, while the BBC report says that the Soviets are operating the Iraqi MiG's, I was told that these are advisers whose job it is to protect the Iraqi oil installations. Their presence in Iraq has the approval of the Soviet authorities. The majority of the thousands of Soviet advisers returned to the USSR in the weeks which preceded the war.

[Yavin] And so far the Americans have not raised hell about this?

[Halperin] No.

[Yavin] Thank you, 'Imanu'el.

Netanyahu Reviews Eagleburger Talks, Relations

TA2301132491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Eli Nisan at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem—in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Nisan] Some people say that Israel must now react to the Iraqi missile attacks. What is your opinion?

[Netanyahu] There will be a reaction. I will not say what this reaction will be or how it will take place; however, I think that it is important to make one thing very clear regarding the certainty of the reaction and the principle of reaction. It is important that the world know that the times when Jews were beaten without retaliating have passed. This will not happen again.

[Nisan] Mr. Netanyahu, is the world now more aware of the need for an Israeli reaction?

[Netanyahu] Not only does the world understand the need for an Israeli reaction, it also understands, I believe, something it did not understand earlier—and that is the role Israel plays in the Middle East. After all, if it were not for Israel, Saddam Husayn would today be capable of sending missiles not only against us but also against the U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia and others. These missiles could have been armed with nuclear warheads. Israel is the one that prevented this. And what will happen when this crisis is over? After Saddam is defeated there can be other Saddams. The foreign troops will depart the region; they will not remain behind in such numbers. Who will stand in the breach if not Israel? Who can stop them if not Israel? Therefore, the great importance in arming Israel is not just for its defense. Of course we want to arm ourselves and grow stronger in order to defend ourselves; however, by defending ourselves we are also defending cultural values that repel all the waves of barbarity that threaten to engulf us.

[Nisan] What kind of international reactions did Israel's current policy evoke?

[Netanyahu] Appreciation, amazement, a high level of identification, and sometimes also admiration.

[Nisan] Mr. Netanyahu, your colleague, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger has extended his stay in Israel. Does this have any connection with the developments in the region?

[Netanyahu] Of course, we maintain close ties with the U.S. Administration, but there is no closer and better contacts than direct contact, than the kind of eye-to-eye conversations we are holding right now.

[Nisan] What have the talks brought about so far?

[Netanyahu] We are discussing a series of joint steps for both countries. We intend to handle the crisis and to strengthen Israel so that it can remove this threat and cope with coming developments.

[Nisan] And what were the results of the talks with the United States until now?

[Netanyahu] They have achieved very practical results that I cannot detail. However, I can say one thing with certainty. All those who constantly spoke about the disagreements, the rift between the two countries, will be once again disappointed. It appears that beneath the surface, under all the dust clouds, there is a solid foundation of friendship between the two democracies: One which is the greatest in the world, and the second one, although small, may be the most feisty and daring of them all. Israel and the United States enjoy a high level of strategic cooperation which finds expression in very practical aspects of coordination and understanding right now. [passage omitted]

Levi Comments on Eagleburger Talks, Reprisals

TA2301153191 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Jan 91 pp 1, 10

[Report by David Makovsky and Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpts] U.S.-Israeli cooperation has "improved," but after two days of talks with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger there is still not a full understanding, Foreign Ministry sources said last night.

Eagleburger was expected to have a phone conversation with President Bush, who will decide whether to give his approval to those issues agreed upon with his Israeli interlocutors.

Eagleburger held "substantive" talks for two hours yesterday with the forum of the three top senior Israeli officials—Prime Minister Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levi, and Defense Minister Moshe Arens—sources say. While the Prime Minister's Office termed the talks "friendly," other Israeli sources characterized it as "frank," a diplomatic buzzword suggesting differences. The Prime Minister's Office said the talks focused on security and economic issues, but refused to divulge details.

Meanwhile, Levi told the Knesset's foreign affairs and defense committee that "Israel and the U.S. will now maintain contact to coordinate with each other and keep each other fully up-to-date."

Levi attributed the U.S. decision to Israel's insistence on its right to react after the missile attacks. [passage omitted]

Levi told the foreign affairs and defense committee that "during the deputy secretary's visit before fighting broke

out, we advised Eagleburger that we could give no commitment to refrain from retaliation. "Eagleburger left, and within hours—but before the hostilities started—we were assured from Washington that a joint coordinating apparatus would be set up. After hostilities began, Washington confirmed several times that it recognized the need to block the Iraqi threat against us, and so it would concentrate on destroying the missile launchers." [quotation marks as received]

"Eagleburger has full authority from the president to make decisions. He doesn't need to go through channels," Levi said.

"The Americans would not have sent us the supplies they did, and agreed to coordinate with us in the most sensitive spheres, had they felt we were not serious about responding to the missile attacks," he said.

"They did not want us to kindle a conflagration, and so they stepped up operations in Western Iraq," he said.

"None of us wants a conflagration, and when we ponder a response, we do not mean adventurism," he said. "The government makes allowances for all the difficulties involved in a response, such as the remoteness of the targets, the need for repeat sorties, the possibility that the targets will not be destroyed, and the reaction we may anticipate from Syria and Jordan. But we shall override all these difficulties if we decide we have to respond," Levi said.

Referring to the possible impact on domestic morale in the U.S. of the treatment of POWs, the minister said he feared a situation where the U.S. would want to bring hostilities to an end more rapidly. "They might decide to shift their main effort over to the primary front, Kuwait, and away from the secondary front—Western Iraq—which poses a threat to us," he said.

In the committee discussion, Labour leader Shim'on Peres said that in order to secure the friendship of the Americans, we do not need to threaten unilateral action.

Rehav'am Ze'evi (Moledet) said the IAF [Israel Air Force] should bomb the H2 and H3 airfields immediately.

Contact Between Bush, Shamir Via Eagleburger

TA2301135791 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1245 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Good afternoon. We would like to tell you more about U.S.-Israeli contacts at the highest level held between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. President George Bush. Early this morning, Prime Minister Shamir met with Lawrence Eagleburger, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, in Shamir's house in Jerusalem. Eagleburger relayed a message to Shamir from President Bush following the missile attack on Ramat Gan last night. The content of the letter is yet unknown. In spirit, it is probably similar to the previous exchanges between the two men, meaning an expression of sincere sympathy with the sorrow, deep shock over the Iraqi aggression, and a U.S. promise to do its best to destroy the missile launchers.

It is worth noting that in previous exchanges between Bush and Shamir, no explicit requests were made for Israel not to react, but it has definitely been hinted. In any event, following this letter, Prime Minister Shamir called President Bush and gave his reply, the details of which are not known either. This dialogue, however, was held just before a highest level ministerial conference to determine whether and how Israel should react to the missile attack on Ramat Gan last night.

After the ministers' meeting, Eagleburger met Defense Minister Moshe Arens in the latter's bureau in Tel Aviv where the discussions on cooperation continued; again, no tangible details of the talks were released.

[Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Networks in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 23 January adds: "The prime minister has asked the ministers not to give media interviews about the missile attacks against Israel. Consulting with ministers this morning, they decided that Mr. Shamir, the defense minister, and the foreign minister are the only persons authorized to make remarks on the issue in order to make sure that the government relays a unified message."]

Arens Says Retaliation Policy Unchanged

TA2301193891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1914 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky in the studio—live]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Good evening.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Minister, the impression this evening is that both you and the chief of staff sang somewhat different tunes on Israel's policy one or two days ago, and that now you no longer talk about the right to retaliate. Now you say: We will react; the question is only when. Is this really a change of tune?

[Arens] From my point of view, and from the way I understand the chief of staff, there has been no change in the tone, and certainly not in the content. Our position right from the start has been that should Israel be attacked, we will react. As to how or when, there is a need for both emotions and logic. It will not be just an attack or two that will decide these matters.

[Shlonsky] In other words, the fall of the missile in Ramat Gan yesterday and the heavy damage it caused in human life—the death of some and the injury of others—has not changed the policy and the decisions?

[Arens] Let me say that it should not change our policy. Our policy should be to worry about Israel's security interests; our policy should not be affected or influenced by one or two incidents.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Arens, a large majority of the public—at least those residing in the central region—feel that it has been subjected to nightly missile attacks and that it is at Saddam Husayn's mercy. What can we tell the public?

[Arens] First of all, that is true. If Secretary of Defense Cheney opened his news conference by expressing his pride in the U.S. Armed Forces, then I would like to take this opportunity to express my pride in the Israeli public. Presently, the home front is on the front line. The public has had to withstand rather unpleasant circumstances, and it has done so honorably. We rely on its ability to withstand. We have always known that Saddam Husayn possesses missiles; we also knew that they were capable of reaching our territory. When he threatened to launch them at us, we did not ignore the threat. Right now we are undergoing a very unpleasant process. This campaign is not something any one of us likes, but there is no alternative.

[Shlonsky] Has the public's ability to withstand this pressure influenced your decision not to react for the moment?

[Arens] First of all, there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that our people, who have experienced quite a few crises and wars, are capable of withstanding this campaign and will do it very well. After all, everyone understands that the campaign we are involved in is different from other campaigns or wars throughout our history. In the past, Israel usually stood alone against its foes. This time the U.S. Armed Forces are fighting against Israel's enemy—Iraq—and are operating forcefully by massively attacking the launch sites of the surface-to-surface missiles aimed at Israel. Clearly this calls for a show of mutual consideration: We must take their concerns into consideration, and they must take ours into account as well.

[Shlonsky] President Bush again called the prime minister this morning. Are the Americans still asking us to show restraint, as we heard General Schwarzkopf, the commander of the U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia, say this morning?

[Arens] I would not like to be more specific about the content of the messages, but as I said, this situation calls for mutual consideration, and I think that exists.

[Shlonsky] Would it be safe to conclude that if Israel finally decides to react, what Israel will get from the United States in return for its restraint will, in the end, be the complete operational coordination with the United States, as Israel has always wanted?

[Arens] I believe it is obvious that military activity on our part, at least under the current circumstances, must be done through contacts with the United States. If and when that happens, I presume that will be the case.

[Shlonsky] Have such contacts already been held?

[Arens] We have contacts with the United States. You will no doubt understand me if I decline to go into any more detail on that matter.

[Shlonsky] Thank you very much, Mr. Arens.

[Arens] Thank you very much.

Sharon, Ne'eman, Eytan Urge Immediate Retaliation

TA2401060991 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jan 91 pp 1, 6

[Report by David Makovsky in Jerusalem and Allison Kaplan in Washington, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Israel will continue its posture of restraint for now and delay any retaliation against Iraq, despite the attack on Ramat Gan, senior officials said last night. It is believed that the unsuccessful attack last night will not change that thinking.

After holding three hours of consultations in a panel session with the senior ministers yesterday, Prime Minister Shamir led the prevailing view that Israel will not now retaliate, sources say.

At the same time, a policy of immediate retaliation, regardless of U.S. requests for restraint, is being pushed by three right-wing ministers—Ari'el Sharon, Yuval Ne'eman and Refa'el Eytan.

While the U.S. recognizes the right of Israel to retaliate, President Bush voiced appreciation that Israel has held fire and refused to embroil itself in the Gulf war.

Without U.S. coordination, there is a likelihood that Israeli planes could crash with allied planes flying bombing missions over Iraq. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem Mufti Calls for Jihad Against U.S.

NC2401091791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 24 Jan (INA)—Jerusalem's Mufti Shaykh Sa'd-al- Din al-'Alami has called for a jihad, particularly against the United States of America, which he described as the No. 1 enemy of Islam and the Muslims. Shaykh al-'Alami also urged all Muslims to launch this jihad against the allies of the Americans, who are also the enemies of Islam, and to boycott U.S. goods.

One IDF Soldier Hurt by Fire From Jordan

TA2301121391 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Jan 91 p 2

[Report by Shim'on Weiss]

[Excerpt] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier sustained light injuries in a clash with at least one terrorist in the Jordan Rift Valley last night. The soldier was transferred to a hospital for medical treatment. The incident occurred at about 2130 [1930 GMT] when an IDF patrol moving in the Ashdot Ya'aqov area in the Jordan Rift Valley came under light arms fire by one or two terrorists from the other side of the Jordan River, slightly wounding one soldier.

The force immediately returned fire and it seems that the terrorists fled into Jordan. [passage omitted]

'Linkage' Seen as Inevitable War Message

TA2301165391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jan 91 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "This War, the Next War"; the word "linkage" is in English throughout this item]

[Text] Is it too early to talk about the post-war situation, when it is already quite clear that it will be some time before the war ends? Not at all, and for several important reasons. Nor is it premature, given the emotional turmoil, to introduce a measure of order into the sweeping commendation of the government. Though I have often, and justifiably, commended the government's restraint, no one will catch me lavishing praise on it blindfolded, or dashing to embrace Shamir simply because we are now embroiled in a state of emergency.

It is not too early to look ahead, because peace arrangements by nature deal with the prevention of war, and there is nothing like the winds of war to upset thoughts about future arrangements. It takes precisely the kind of pressure to which the parties to the conflict are subjected to create the understanding that comes after the cannons have been silenced. War is the horrible manifestation of danger, but it is likewise a blatant and stark way to exorcise the deceit and lies that sabotage understanding.

Let me give an example: The Iraqi missiles clearly demonstrate, with blood and fire, how invalid the territorial argument is. Why do we need territories as a so-called buffer zone, when the threat can reach us even from a distance of 1,000 km, and when it approaches our rooftops over the skies of the West Bank? And does this war not establish the true dimensions of that famous threat so frequently mentioned by the opponents of a peace settlement, that a Palestinian state will deploy artillery on the hills of Qalqilyah and will bombard the coastal plain? Who are they telling this, in days when a vast world coalition stands by us in the face of a far more distant threat from a criminal Arab country?

Furthermore, let them stop trying to sell us today the contention that we will not let other countries help us maintain our security; after all, this war proves how far that is from the truth. Those innumerable declarations, which have been flaunted all these years, have dissipated into our agreement to exercise restraint even as the West protects our children and homes. Although the value of the traditional rhetoric, in principle, should not be dismissed, in practical terms it has now melted into a handful of Patriot missiles. There is nothing better than this war to prove we can manage with international assistance in preserving our security.

This is the time, and it comes not a moment too soon, to review carefully the term linkage. The Americans buckled under and have abstained from linking a settlement in the Gulf to one here. I am not sure that is good: A government interested in a settlement would have told the Americans—although not necessarily openly—that it wants to take advantage of the historic opportunity (in this context that inflated term is not really a hyperbole) to bring the parties closer to a settlement, after the war. Those parties include weakened and threatened Jordan; the defeated PLO after the end of its romance with Saddam; the Gulf states that have always dutifully towed the line of anti-Israel rhetoric; and Syria, which, together with us, will witness Baghdad's final defeat.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to expect the incumbent Israeli leadership to view things thus and disown its dangerous concept of the territories. Let them not, however, tell us the Americans created the linkage: It was the right-wing camp in Israel that brought it to life, and it is that camp that continues to sustain it.

Ever since it began to be heard in the halls of power, it has been telling us that there is an indivisible connection between the threat represented by the Arab countries and the Palestinians and the rejection of a compromise arrangement. The truth is well known, however, and it would not be premature to repeat it one more time: The government has never, not even in tranquil times, been prepared to sever the linkage between what it perceives as the perennial Arab hostility and its stubborn adherence to the land and the population on the other side of the Green Line.

The tight attraction to the land demonstrated by the right-wing camp in Israel is, in effect, unrelated to any security situation. If it were not for the linkage established by Shamir, Arens, and their ilk, they would not have voted against the peace agreement with Egypt during the Knesset debate. If it were not for the ideological umbilical cord that connects the rightist camp to the territories—which is in fact the real linkage—they would not have taken pains, or succeeded, in rejecting every initiative for a settlement and in extinguishing any flash of understanding, just so they would not be cut off from the warm lap of Greater Israel.

If the Shamir government does not want any linkage, fine, but let it take that to the end. It should sever the fanatic, neurotically mystic affinity with the territories and present them as one of the components in the negotiations. That, however, is not so: They are the ones who cling to the linkage forever. No war, no global process will ever cool their passion.

It is not premature to discuss these issues—certainly not when the country, whose leaders are convinced that the

territories offer us security, is engrossed in two wars: one, which has been going on for two [as published] years, in the territories; and the other with a country 1,000 km from us—especially in light of the fact that after this war, amid the new international solidarity, the seeds of the next war may be sowed.

War Gives Israel 'Moral' Right to More Aid

TA2301151991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jan 91 p B1

[Editorial: "Aid to Tighten the Alliance"]

[Text] It seems that a new stage has been reached in U.S.-Israeli relations. This new stage should also include a reevaluation of the question of aid. In August 1990, our expectations in this sphere had to be modified. The U.S. Administration had to face serious budget problems. Maintaining the existing extent of defense and economic aid was considered an achievement. Also, the political disagreements that cast a shadow on relations between the two countries did not create the appropriate atmosphere for requests for additional aid.

A change in circumstances occurred when the Gulf crisis erupted. On the one hand, all at once the economic burden on Israel became larger because of the influence of the conflict and defensive readiness. It is hard to assess the exact size of the burden, but it would seem that any figure between $1 and $5 billion could be true. This unexpected burden has joined another irregular burden—the cost of an immigrant absorption that could reach many billions.

Another change that occurred in August 1990 was the generous write-off of the $7 billion Egyptian debt to the United States. Until the Gulf crisis, it was hard to conceive of such a far-reaching move. Egypt has indeed suffered major economic difficulties, but they were no secret even before. The write-off was born and made possible after the Gulf crisis, and was a reward to the Egyptians for joining the alliance against Iraq; a move that incidentally suited Egyptian interests just fine.

Israel has not been asked to join the alliance, but it made the best contribution it could: First in assuming the "low-profile" policy which made it easier for the Arab countries to join the anti-Iraqi coalition; and now through its policy of restraint, which helped keep the coalition together. Furthermore, the United States is well aware of the fact that Israel has been and still is the most stable base at its service in times of distress in this part of the world.

The situation that has been created gives Israel the moral and practical right to demand that the United States substantially increase material aid—in kind and money. With this in view, several deals were made before the war broke out, and they have yielded fruit which is already helping us. Nevertheless, the most difficult economic times—in terms of financing the defense expenses and immigrant absorption—are still ahead of us. It is hard to see how we will be able to confront the difficulties without extensive assistance from the outside.

After the meeting between Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, it became apparent that Israel will ask the United States for a $10-billion special aid package over five years. The exact range of the aid and the ways it would be given still need to be discussed. It would, however, be advisable for the understanding in principle to be laid soon, in the few weeks to come.

The chances of obtaining such an understanding are not bad. It would also express the tightening alliance between the two countries. At the same time, one must assume that the administration will expect the Israeli Government to show understanding for U.S. interests in the region after the Gulf crisis is over. A central such interest will undoubtedly be a practical effort to advance the peace process in the region, and the State of Israel will have to show what it is going to do about it. It is advisable that the government be ready for this examination of stands—economic as well as political—with convincing suggestions in its hands.

German Official on Solidarity in Genscher Visit

TA2301141091 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1344 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] We are shocked by the resumption of the brutal Iraqi missile attacks yesterday on populated areas of Tel Aviv, said Hans (Schumacher), the spokesman for the German Foreign Ministry in a telephone conversation from Bonn. We sympathize fully with Israel during these trying times, he added:

[Begin (Schumacher) recording, in English] Our feelings are shocked by this renewed brutal missile attack yesterday by Iraq against residential areas in Tel Aviv. Israel has our full solidarity in these difficult times. As a token of this solidarity, the federal cabinet today has decided that the foreign minister.... [end recording]

As a token of solidarity, it was decided today to dispatch Foreign Minister Genscher to Israel as soon as possible at the head of a delegation of representatives from German political parties. The federal cabinet also decided, as an immediate step, to extend humanitarian aid to Israel to the tune of 250 million German marks.

We are currently in touch with the Israeli Government to coordinate the meetings, the spokesman said. I am convinced that Genscher will meet his counterpart David Levi in Jerusalem, and he may even meet with the prime minister and the president.

Foreign Minister Genscher, (Schumacher) believes, will carry a personal message to Prime Minister Shamir from Chancellor Kohl.

Was the visit meant to silence criticism over the minimal role Germany has been playing in the Gulf war effort, we asked?

[Begin (Schumacher) recording, in English] Well, I do not see that these accusations are justified. I think, which is strongly emphasized by this visit, too, which has been announced, and our help in the past towards the affected countries in the Middle East and towards the allies who are fighting in the Gulf has been considerable, too. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

As for the question of whether the visit has to do with the well-known fact that German companies had sold equipment and technology connected to chemical weapons to Iraq, that was a question (Schumacher) refused to comment on.

He finally asked to transmit a personal message, as an individual who has served in Israel in a diplomatic capacity, and as one who is married to an Israeli:

[Begin (Schumacher) recording, in English] I really would like to pass to you my personal sympathy, and we do hope that this nightmare can be finished as soon as possible. I would like to say, from the bottom of my heart, to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Shalom from Bonn. [end recording]

Military Source Appraises Saddam Motives, Damages

TA2101170791 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 21 Jan 91 p 3

[Report by Tzvi Gilat and Alex Fishman]

[Excerpts] Saddam Husayn will persist in his efforts to involve Israel in the Gulf war. This was the assessment a security source made yesterday during the weekly briefing of the cabinet. He believes that Saddam will try to bring about a deterioration in the situation with the help of the chemical weapons which he apparently still has, in spite of the massive U.S. assaults on his infrastructure, including on the plants manufacturing chemical weapons. [passage omitted]

The security source reported that it seems Saddam intends to tolerate the bombardments and to inflict heavy casualties upon the coalition at the ground battle stage.

As for the surface-to-surface missiles, including the Scuds, the cabinet was informed that a number of launchers had been hit, but that a large number of them still exist, including underground stationary or mobile launchers. It is not absolutely clear whether the U.S. hits rendered these launchers totally inoperational, or whether they only damaged them.

Israel is closely monitoring the Jordanian front. The cabinet was told that the Jordanian Army is currently on full alert. King Husayn has repeatedly emphasized that he would not permit entry into his airspace. The pretext he provided for the fact that the Iraqi missiles have already done so was that the trajectory of the missiles in space is beyond his sovereign airspace. [passage omitted]

[In a similar report on 21 January, Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR adds, in a contribution by Moti Bassok on page 2, that with regard to the Patriot missiles, that "security sources" have pointed out that "the missiles cannot hermetically seal the country's airspace and prevent an Iraqi missile attack."

["Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner noted that there is great solidarity with Saddam Husayn in the territories, and that the missile attacks led to elation among the locals. At the same time, the curfews and the calm in the territories are generally observed. The cabinet commended the Israeli Arabs' conduct."]

Knesset's Ben Elissar on French Role in Gulf

PM2301090091 Paris LE FIGARO in French 21 Jan 91 p 8

[Interview with Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Commission Chairman Eliahou Ben Elissar by Pierre Rousselin on 20 January—place not given]

[Text] [Rousselin] You are making constant attacks on French policy in the Gulf crisis. Why?

[Ben Elissar] I have not attacked France. I reminded it of its responsibility in the construction of Iraq's military potential. France was the first and only country to supply Saddam Husayn with what could have become a nuclear option.

We did not allow that option to become a reality because in 1981 we bombed the Osirak nuclear power station which France had sold to Iraq. France sold equipment worth tens of thousands of francs to Iraq. Some French companies supplied Iraq with advanced technology which enabled Baghdad to have nonconventional weapons. I have never accused France of supplying the missiles which are currently falling on Israel. The Scud missiles are Soviet. But some instruments enabled the Iraqis to improve the original Scud missiles to give them the range which enables them to hit Israel now. Some French and Germans—how ironic—some Italians and other Europeans sold the Iraqis technology which enables them to threaten Israel now.

[Rousselin] Do you mean that French people helped to develop the Iraqi missiles?

[Ben Elissar] Do not think that what I am saying to the French is unfounded. I know that the French did not supply missiles, but I know all they did to ensure that those missiles were improved and to give the Iraqis extraordinary potential, including a nuclear option which was not directed against France. God protect us. It was directed against Israel. That is all there is to it. And I am sure that the French people do not agree with their successive governments on that. You know, my three-year-old granddaughter had to wear one of those gas masks....

[Rousselin] Why have you chosen this time to make these accusations?

[Ben Elissar] Because, until a very short time ago, France was on the side of tyranny, on Iraq's side. So, it was necessarily against Israel. Even now, France has sided with the PLO which is allied to Iraq, and continues to advocate things for the future which are contrary to Israel's most vital interests.

To give you an example: Yesterday I took part in a program in which I heard Defense Minister Chevenement say that, once the current crisis is over, all the problems in the region will be solved—the problem of Lebanon, Palestine, and Israel. I did not know that Israel was a problem. Now I know. Thank you France.

[Rousselin] But the French are currently fighting Iraq....

[Ben Elissar] I do not want to dwell on that. We still have the impression that the French do not want to go further than Kuwait. They are doing it unwillingly, as if they were forced to be on the theater of operations but without intervening too much. Kuwait yes, Iraq no. What does this mean? They are still trying to cajole Saddam Husayn, keep him in reserve. We Israelis think that a man who has ordered missiles to be fired at our people will not be allowed to continue for long to destabilize the Middle East which is already a sufficiently unstable region.

[Rousselin] Do you not think that international public opinion is changing in Israel's favor?

[Ben Elissar] Waiting until missiles were dropped on Israel's population is rather a high price to pay for those expressions of sympathy. I do not feel euphoric about the idea that international opinion is more well disposed toward Israel. I do not know how long it will last. When I see so many Germans demonstrating against the Americans, allegedly opposing war, they do not know what they are doing. Those who are now protesting the Americans are merely supporting the world's most terrible dictator. A man who could crush such an inoffensive country as Kuwait. The only head of state who has said he is prepared to use poison gas.

I will not forgive the world for having helped to create a situation in which 4 million Jews have to wear gas masks, 45 years after Auschwitz. Among those 4 million Jews are 1 million children. I will not forgive them for that. Saddam Husayn must cease to have any influence in the Middle East. But I will also remind the world of what has happened in Israel in 1991.

[Rousselin] Do you think that Saddam Husayn's strategy is now producing the reverse of what he hoped?

[Ben Elissar] I do not think that is yet the case. But it will certainly eventually be the case. I am convinced that he thinks that his strategy is productive.

[Rousselin] After the "low profile," Israel is showing "restraint." Has a response been ruled out?

[Ben Elissar] Definitely not. But I do not much like this word response. We are already at war. Saddam Husayn has already fired at us. We are going to choose when to act, where to act, and how to act.

[Rousselin] It seems that there is a "deal" with the Americans. In exchange for Israeli "restraint," batteries of Patriot antimissile missiles have already arrived. What other promises have the United States made?

[Ben Elissar] There is no deal, and no transaction with the Americans. We have not promised the United States or anybody to refrain from action against Iraq. We will do it when we wish.

[Rousselin] How do you view the military operation now being conducted by the allied forces?

[Ben Elissar] They are fighting in their way, at their pace. The U.S. tactics are different. They have so much money, so many means of action. It is unbelievable. Their tactics correspond to their means.

[Rousselin] Do you think that Israel could do anything which is not already being done?

[Ben Elissar] I will not pass judgment on the Americans and British because they are sacrificing their sons. Israel has the weapons of a small and poor country. We must be much more accurate and ingenious. We must compensate for our lack of resources by more original methods. That is why we very often take action where we are not expected.

[Rousselin] But is there anything from a strictly military viewpoint that Israel could do to help eliminate the launchers which are worrying us?

[Ben Elissar] I think so. I am not sure, because it remains to be proved. We would perhaps have added an additional dimension.

[Rousselin] Can you assure us that no secret operation has been carried out or is about to be carried out?

[Ben Elissar] Nothing is under way.

Teddy Kollek on Gulf War, PLO, Compromises

AU2101163991 Vienna PROFIL in German 21 Jan 91 pp 52-53

[Interview with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek by Erhard Stackl in Jerusalem; date not given: "Generous With the Arabs"]

[Text] [Stackl] Mr. Mayor, how do you assess the military operation against Iraq?

[Kollek] I met several Iraqis in London four months ago. They told me convincingly that if it comes to war, the Iraqi Army will break down within a few days. What is happening now does not surprise me. The Arabs have always chosen such leaders—first the Mufti of Jerusalem and Hitler, then Nasir and 'Arafat, and now Saddam. And then they are shocked at their great misfortune.

[Stackl] What does this development mean for Israel, for Jerusalem? The PLO is threatening new terror.

[Kollek] There has been terror for some time now, and it will continue for some time to come. We must tell the Arabs that they have lost the game; however, we must also be generous and decent. We must offer them a solution; however, they will reject it, too.

[Stackl] Opposition Knesset deputies have said that it would be a positive gesture of Israel to announce, prior to the end of the crisis, that it is ready to take part in an international conference on Palestine. However, the government continues to be strictly opposed to such a conference.

[Kollek] I try not to interfere in government affairs. However, I think that we should not dominate 1.5 million Arabs, and we should return the territories. I have always said so since 1967. We will possibly have to change the border here and there, but generally, I would like to see the Arabs become independent. However, we are concerned about our security. So we must make sure that they do not put up military structures—at least for a few years. A danger consists in the fact that the Arabs' political thinking is different from that in Europe. You can see that from Saddam's actions. You also see from this terrible murder (to which PLO leader Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] fell victim) that terror is an often employed method. There have been political murders in Europe as well; however, that happens almost daily here. The idea of having 1.6 million Palestinians ruled by a foreign element—in this case, us—is more dangerous in my view than giving them an opportunity to become independent. Whether that would be a state from the start, or whether a state should be developed—these are things that can be negotiated. In Jerusalem, we have allowed the Arabs to keep their (Jordanian) citizenship. Whenever a region was split up in Europe—be it South Tyrol or the Sudetenland—this was never done. Here, the Arabs were allowed to choose what they wanted to be. They could also have been elected into the city council. But in this respect, fear is involved again. When someone (publisher Hanna Seniora) said that he intended to put up a list, two of his cars were burned, and he gave up the plan.

[Stackl] You had a discussion with Faysal al-Husayni recently who is considered a leading PLO member. Even your political friends sharply criticized you for this. They said that you had met with the "King of Knife Whetters" who backed Saddam Husayn.

[Kollek] I wanted to prove one thing— that it is even possible in this situation to calmly discuss the most divergent views. It was a contrast to political murder and terror. The Arab press reported on our meeting in more detail than on any other event. The people who criticized me believe that such meetings should only be held to reduce the tensions in the city. However, neither Mr. al-Husayni nor anyone else have any influence on the stone-throwers or knifers; they don't have any possibility to give them orders or calm them down. I don't think you can resolve the Intifadah in Jerusalem by police methods—nor can you resolve it by meeting with Arabs. A solution is only possible if you see a political development. We are now renovating the Central Arab Bus Station, and the same people who criticized me for meeting with Al- Husayni now ask me why I am doing something for them. My opinion is this: Because they pay taxes they have a right to claim the same city services as all the others. We cannot punish 150,000 persons who use the buses just because a few hundred young people continue intifadah. People also suggested that the water for them should be cut off—and other stupid things—we will not enact collective punishments. We have 3,000 Arab employees in the city who have not taken part in strikes on a single day, even though there have been dozens of strike days in recent years.

[Stackl] Have they not been threatened?

[Kollek] I held a meeting with 160 Arab civil servants recently. I told them: I know that you have been threatened, but you serve your own fellow citizens. We have never asked you about your political opinions. You get the same pay as the Israelis, and it is in the city's interest for you to continue. I think I confirmed them in their opinion to continue.

[Stackl] What are these staff members doing?

[Kollek] One of my secretaries is an Arab, some people here in the City Hall are Arabs—in the finance department, in social welfare, and some are engineers. However, most of them are people who clean the streets or work in water supply.

[Stackl] Radical Jewish groups demanded in a campaign that businessmen should not employ Palestinians, and there were also graffiti such as "Arabs out." A press comment said that you had played down this affair, and that you had said that it was not that terrible.

[Kollek] No, I didn't say so. Together with the police, we were doing everything to remove these graffiti. We said everywhere that we are opposed to such things. However, the truth is this: There are some people who employed Arabs and could not rely on them any more because of the strikes. They were also somewhat concerned because in one or two cases, people stabbed their employers to death for whom they had worked for five years. However, these are individual cases. The number of Arabs who work here has not decreased. Unfortunately, we also have our extremists. They have become extremists owing to the fact that the Arabs have attacked us for 20 years or longer.

[Stackl] Israeli citizens who personally advocate a compromise with the Palestinians have told me that they regret that they form part of a decreasing minority.

[Kollek] But not in Jerusalem. In parliamentary elections, the Labor Party and the left have slightly decreased. But I won two thirds of the votes the last time.

[Stackl] On a list of persons, not as a candidate of the Labor Party.

[Kollek] I have been a member of the Labor Party for 46 years. I am not resigning from it. The party has made many mistakes. However, its philosophy is much closer to me than any other one. But ever since I have been in this city I have not taken part in any party activities. I still have three years left to the end of my term, and I do not have the impression that I am less popular now.

[Stackl] Recently, you have been confronted with the additional problem of the immigration of masses of Jews from the Soviet Union.

[Kollek] I think the Intifadah has given the Arabs a feeling that they are on the same level as the Israelis, and that they have won a sort of victory. That will enhance the possibility for the Arabs to take part in negotiations and make compromises. On the other hand, as far as we are concerned, the idea of having half a million or a million Russians in the country gives us a feeling of strength, and we do not need to be afraid. Perhaps 100,000 of them will come here. We are trying to do our best, so no one of them will live in the West Bank, in the occupied territories....

[Stackl] ...but they will live in those parts of Jerusalem which formerly belonged to the Arab east.

[Kollek] Jerusalem was never an Arab capital city, it was an Arab holy city. After 2,000 years, in 1967, we returned to this city, and we took the Temple Mount, and somebody put up a large Israeli flag on the mosque. We removed it within a few hours. We told the Arabs, the Temple Mount continues to be yours because you have prayed here for 1,200 years. That was the greatest possible self-denial, because right beside it, in the Jewish quarter, we found 58 destroyed synagogues. However, we will certainly not recognize the Arab claim for an Arab capital in Jerusalem. That will be the big issue. Over all those centuries, Jerusalem has never been their capital. Their rulers were always in Beirut or Damascus.

[Stackl] What do you think about your old homeland?

[Kollek] I have always said that I am a bit ashamed for Austria. The Germans have had a group here for more than 20 years, which is called "Sign of Atonement" ["Suehnezeichen"]. Young people work here for half a year, wash the floors in the home for the blind, or work with handicapped children. They say that they are not guilty, but they feel responsible. If you talk with young Austrians, they say that they were conquered and were unable to do anything—and that is the result of the government policy. It is not true, my parents were there at the time of the Anschluss; Hitler was received with great enthusiasm. The Austrians did not behave differently from the Germans; however, they got out of it cleverly. There was not a single young man from Austria in our country who would have said: I want to do something to repair what my parents, grandparents, or uncles did. I cannot come to grips with that. As for the rest, I personally had a nice time when I was young and in Austria. As for President Waldheim, the Jewish criticism has only brought him votes. And if he comes under strong attack, he will be reelected.

Islamic Jihad Says Suicide Attacks Soon

JN2401105291 Amman THE STAR in English 24-30 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] Amman (Star)—The Amir of the Islamic Jihad, Bayt al- Maqdis Movement, Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, has said that many volunteers for suicidal attacks against Western interests will launch their operations shortly. He said that volunteers have approached him expressing their desire to "execute" suicidal operations.

In an interview with The Star, the leader of the radical Islamic movement also appealed to all Muslims worldwide to attack Western interests without hesitation.

Shaykh al-Tamimi urged Iranian leaders to join "the holy war against the United States and its allies." He added that Iran should not remain neutral in this war.

"I am certain that every missile that hits Tel Aviv, Haifa and other parts of Israel, also strikes at the White House and other American symbols," Shaykh al-Tamimi said.

He said that Iraq's victory in the Gulf war means that "the day when we all shall pray and fast in liberated Jerusalem is not far."

He said that the bombing of Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem by al- Husayn (surface-to-surface) missiles is the first signal of the inevitability of the restoration of Palestine.

Shaykh al-Tamimi asserted that the American-led aggression against Iraq transcends its declared objectives. "It is an aggression against all Muslims," he said. "Iraq is fighting on behalf of Islam and Muslims. That is why it should not be left alone in standing to the enemies of Ummah [nation]."

The Palestinian-born Muslim scientist said he was confident of Iraq's triumph in this war. He said the war will be widened regardless of relentless bombing of Iraq's cities and towns with all kinds of modern weapons.

Shaykh al-Tamimi said that President Saddam Husayn was the only Arab leader in recent history to keep his promise of attacking Israel. "This time the Palestinians feel that there is a real Arab leader who translates his words into action." He said president Saddam will keep his promise of liberating Palestine and the holy shrines.

On the other hand, Shaykh al-Tamimi complained that Islamic response so far was not as expected. "I urge all organizations and Arab countries to use every possible means to hit the enemies' interests," he said.

The 70-year-old Hebronite said that he now considers "Saddam as the leader of Islam with a new message and mission aiming at the liberation of Palestine." He predicted that America will "face its end in its war against Islam in spite of its strength because Allah is greater and stronger.

Shaykh al-Tamimi, who has a considerable number of followers in the occupied territories and enjoys good contacts with the Iranian leadership, said that he did not think that performing Hajj [pilgramage] under the present circumstances was possible. "Western forces must first be expelled from the holy shrines of Islam," he said.

'Terrorist' Groups Reportedly Meeting at Border

PM2301131291 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 19 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "It Is Being Said"]

[Text] It is being said that there have been extensive meetings along the Jordanian-Iraqi border between two "terrorist" groups—one based in Amman and the other in Baghdad—with a view to determining their joint activities. It is also being said that the organization based in Amman has set a condition for joint action: namely, to share whatever the other secures from Baghdad.

Armitage Visit Said To Show Concern for Jordan

JN2301103991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 91 pp 1,5

[By Raniyah 'Atallah, in Washington]

[Excerpts] The visit to Amman on Tuesday of a special envoy of U.S. President George Bush was primarily aimed at conveying American anxiety over the consequences to Jordan of any Israeli involvement in the Gulf war, according to American officials Tuesday.

His Majesty King Husayn met with Richard Armitage, a former assistant secretary of state, in Amman Tuesday. There was no official Jordanian comment on the meeting.

American officials said that an Israeli involvement in the conflict worries Washington not so much for fear of the collapse of the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq but more so for what such involvement and an expansion of the war could mean for Jordan.

The effects on Jordan of an Israeli involvement in the war is certainly "one of our fears," one State Department official told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

But, he stressed, there have been "no promises" made by the U.S. to Jordan during the visit by Mr. Armitage.

White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said the visit by Mr. Armitage was not designed to send a message but rather aimed at closer consultations with the Jordanian government. [passage omitted]

The State Department official said the prospects of a Middle East peace settlement would most certainly depend on the outcome of the Gulf war. He reiterated the Bush administration's position that a peace conference could be useful "at the appropriate time."

The official said he believed Israel was acting out of self-interest by not retaliating against the Iraqi Scud missile attack last week.

"Israel will first and foremost look to see what is best for the defence of Israel," he said in a phone interview. "Whatever retaliation would be done by the allies,' he added.

He denied media reports that the U.S., had agreed to postpone an international peace conference in return for Israel's show of restraint. "We do not make those kinds of deals," he said.

The administration official said the U.S. was not ruling out a role in the peace efforts for the Soviets. "We are not trying to keep them out but we have felt that they ought to have relations with all sides and play a responsible role... We won't rule out a role for them," he said.

Helena Cobban, agrees with the official that a specialist on Middle East and Palestinian affairs, restrain was in Israel's own best interest [sentence as published]. "The Israelis are always very savy about maximising their bargaining position," she told the Jordan Times. "They are making a big deal about how they have done this in response to U.S. wishes," she added.

University of Chicago Professor Rashid Khalidi said Israel was sure to get even more influence over the administration's Middle East policy from now on. "There is less of a chance for an equitable solution" to the Palestinian problem" he said.

Even with Egyptian and Saudi involvement in the U.S.-led coalition, the prospects of a settlement look grim to Khalidi. "They (Egypt and Saudi Arabia) have become even more dependent on Washington and would not be in a position to sacrifice their bilateral relations" for the sake of the Palestinians, he said in a phone interview.

Institute of Palestine Studies Director Philip Mattar warned that a failure to solve the Palestine question would be detrimental to American interests in the region. "It is in the interest of the U.S. to push Israel to a resolution of the conflict otherwise there would be increased radicalisation of the Palestinians and other Arabs in the region, an increase in religious fundamentalists and the occupation of Palestinians would continue to be a source of fraction" in the years ahead.

He echoed the view that a Middle East peace settlement would depend on the outcome of the war and on whether Egypt and Saudi Arabia—the Arab partners in the U.S.-led coalition—would be in a postion to act as pivotal players.

Crown Prince Hasan Interviewed on Gulf War

PM2301134091 Paris LE MONDE in French 23 Jan 91 p 9

[Interview with Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan by Jean Gueyras in Amman on 20 January]

[Text] Amman—[Gueyras] How do you explain the fact that President Saddam Husayn has run the risk of challenging such an international coalition?

[Hasan] To understand Saddam Husayn's behavior, you must remember that Iraq was terribly isolated from the start. The Iraqi head of state lacks any experience in the international sphere. He has never had direct contact with Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Bush. Even Iranian President Rafsanjani has traveled outside his country several times.

[Gueyras] Do you think that Jordan could be drawn into the war?

[Hasan] That possibility cannot be ruled out. But it must be stressed that Jordan has made every effort to avert this war. It is the target of constant pressure—economic and otherwise—to prompt it to join the international coalition. Paradoxically, we have been congratulated for advocating a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and punished for having refused to participate in the anti-Iraq coalition.

[Gueyras] Do you not think that you aligned yourselves too closely with Iraq following the occupation of Kuwait, that you did not condemn it with enough vigor?

[Hasan] Not at all. The Jordanian-Palestinian alliance was formed around 10 years ago following the start of the Iran-Iraq war. At the time, everybody accepted our decision, even the United States, which was only too happy to see that al-'Aqabah was used to serve the war effort against Iran. In addition, how do you expect us to violently condemn the occupation of Kuwait when Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and even the United States asked us to act as an intermediary to secure the withdrawal of the Iraqis from the emirate? We even secured a promise from Baghdad to do that. You know what happened then.

[Gueyras] But the United States seemed particularly annoyed with you. Why?

[Hasan] The deterioration of our relations with Washington began in 1974 when we recognized the PLO's right to be the Palestinian people's sole representative. Then there was Camp David and finally, there was our decision not to participate in the multinational force.

[Gueyras] Do you think that if Israel attacked you, the Americans would intervene to help you according to the principle they invoked in going to war with Iraq?

[Hasan] A good question. But it is difficult to answer it at the moment.

[Gueyras] What do you think of the assertions that the Israelis have long dreamed of occupying Jordan to push into Jordan the Palestinians from the occupied territories and thus solve the Palestinian problem at the Jordanians' expense.

[Hasan] I do not think that all the Israelis agree with that plan. There isn't unanimity, even within the Likud. There are so many threats in our region that there is a danger of becoming paranoid. As far as I am concerned, I intend to sleep peacefully in my bed and attach little importance to those reports.

[Gueyras] What would you do if Israeli aircraft entered your air space?

[Hasan] We have clearly stated that we could not tolerate such an eventuality. We will not allow the Israelis, the Iraqis, or the multinational force to use our air space to create a corridor through it. Such an initiative would certainly spark off an offensive and turn Jordan into a new battlefield.

[Gueyras] How do you view the attitude of the Arab countries fighting with the United States against another Arab country?

[Hasan] I do not know. But it is very sad to see a Saudi pilot smiling with satisfaction alongside an American pilot and saying: "I have come back from a raid on Baghdad." Baghdad is a name which stirs up strong feelings in me. It is not the Baghdad of Saddam Husayn but the Baghdad of the Arab and Islamic heritage. It will be very difficult to find a new modus vivendi among the Arabs in the future if this conflict continues.

[Gueyras] Do you think that after this war your country's position on solving the Palestinian problem will be the same, in other words, very moderate?

[Hasan] Our position is unchanged: To give the Palestinians the opportunity of achieving the start of a solution in the framework of an international conference. If you think that trying to find a just and peaceful solution based on UN resolutions is a moderate position, I agree with you. We are and have always been centrists. What is the alternative?

Waging war on Israel and Balkanizing Jordan? The question of the link between the occupation of Kuwait and the other Near East problems has unfortunately been revived by an act of violence, in other words, by the missiles on Tel Aviv. If Palestine's problem had been solved, the question of the link would never have been raised and would not have been a major obstacle in preliminary negotiations with the Iraqis.

[Gueyras] Is your traditional policy of moderation not being called into question by the recent decision by the Jordanian lower house calling on the Arab and Muslim nations to strike hard at American interests and the interests of all countries taking part in this war alongside them?

[Hasan] The Arab and Muslim world is being shaken by popular demonstrations of anger. In this climate, such statements are not surprising. Regarding the Jordanian Government, its position is very clear: to defend Jordan and safeguard its security. But, if you take every word spoken in anger literally, I must tell you that there have also been extreme and very undiplomatic statements by the U.S. leaders about the Iraqi leadership.

[Gueyras] This crisis seems to have exacerbated the positions of the Jordanian and Palestinian masses in your country. Do you think that this is ultimately likely to create a gulf between the Jordanian leaders and the population who unconditionally and enthusiastically support Iraq?

[Hasan] I think anything is possible and there may be circles somewhere in the world which are trying to destabilize Jordan. But it would be wrong to disregard the perfect accord between the Jordanians and Palestinians in this country since the start of the crisis. And if there are some discordant voices here and there, it is the result of the democracy which exists in Jordan—a democracy which is rarely found in the Arab world. I think that the freedom which exists in our country is helping to guarantee the stability of the Hashemite kingdom.

[Gueyras] Some people have been shocked by a passage in parliament's declaration describing the United States as "great Satan"—thereby using a term coined by Khomeyni. Does this not indicate progress by the Islamic movement in Jordan?

[Hasan] This Islamic feeling has been growing fast since the 1989 elections and this should not surprise anybody. We had already discussed that with our Western interlocutors. However, the latter are only interested in challenges. If they see that their interests are threatened, they immediately talk of terrorism. In this part of the world, there is a long list of burning or endemic crises in what I call the "arc of crises." These problems obviously produce fundamentalist ethnic movements.

[Gueyras] Are you disappointed by France's attitude?

[Hasan] I can understand the attitude taken by France which has been subjected to very strong pressure. But, at the same time, I thought there was some respect for Paris' last initiative which was very well formulated. Public opinion, however, openly criticizes Paris' attitude, notably accusing the French Government of being "under the U.S. wing." I am convinced that Paris tried to establish a detailed dialogue with Iraq even before 2 August. But its efforts failed in face of the intransigence of Baghdad and Washington.

[Gueyras] Do you think that nuclear and chemical installations have been destroyed in Iraq?

[Hasan] That is what the U.S. general staff says. But what is the truth? The fact remains that 40,000 tonnes of bombs have been dropped on Iraq in 48 hours, in other words, the equivalent of two Hiroshima bombs. In these circumstances, is it reasonable to say, as the Iraqis are saying, that they have only claimed 70 lives?

In addition, we have seen what has happened in Tel Aviv. I am not discriminating. We are talking about human beings on both sides. But why remain silent and accept the air raids, even using NATO airports in Turkey? Turkey said that it would only enter the war if it was attacked by Iraq. Is an attempt being made to reform the NATO forward front created during the Cold War to turn it into a front against Arabs and Muslims?

Bomb Scare Reported at British Bank in Amman

JN2301103191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The branch of the British Bank of the Middle East on Jabal al-Husayn was Tuesday the target of a bomb threat, but there was no explosion and the police safely removed the suspect object.

David Tate, Jordan area manager of the Hong-Kong owned bank said Jordanian bomb disposal experts found the device in a folded newspaper that was spotted on a counter at the bank's Jabal al-Husayn branch, according to a report carried by Reuter news agency.

The agency quoted police sources as saying that the bomb was a fake device. But the Associated Press (AP) agency quoted other police sources as saying that it was a one kilogramme explosive device which was dismantled safely.

The bank manager told AP that the device contained only batteries and no explosives. Last October a similar suspect package was spotted at the British Bank in downtown Amman and was removed without causing any danger.

Agence France Presse (AFP) said that its office in Amman received a call claiming that the device was planted by a group calling itself the Arab Communist Revolutionary Party. But the AFP said the police confirmed that the suspected object contained batteries and some wires but no explosives.

At the weekend a bomb went off outside a British Bank branch in West Beirut, causing no casualties and slight damage.

On Friday night a gunman fired six shots at the Amman offices of the U.S. Citibank from a speeding car, causing slight damage but no injuries.

The British Council, Britain's government-backed overseas cultural organisation, announced the temporary closure of its Amman office and library on Sunday.

Tate told Reuters Jordanian police guards at his bank's five Amman branches would be doubled after Thursday's scare. All visitors would be searched.

Islamic Officials, PLO Discuss Support for Iraq

LD2301111291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] A meeting has taken place in Amman between Islamic Jordanian officials and representatives from the PLO to discuss appropriate measures to support Iraq.

Islamists Call On Iran To Join Forces With Iraq

JN2401090091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Islamist deputies in Parliament Wednesday called on Iran to declare a holy war in support of Iraq in the face of the American-led coalition in the Gulf.

Should Iran continue to adhere to its present neutral stand, it would risk losing gains made through the Iranian revolution, especially as Tehran has been announcing its strong opposition to Israel and the United States and declaring these two as its main enemies, deputy Layth Shubaylat said in a statement to the Agence France Presse (AFP).

Shubaylat said that he plans to send a cable to the spiritual leader of Iran urging him to enter the war on the side of Iraq.

"Should Iraq face defeat, the Arab and Islamic world would be transformed into foreign military bases to hit against Iran and other Arab and Muslim nations," Shubaylat warned.

Deputy 'Ali al-Faqir said that Iran is called on to enter the war and help Iraq in its confrontation of the Western coalition. His views were supported also by Ahmad al-Kawfahi from the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Jordanian women committee for the support of Arab steadfastness Wednesday issued an appeal urging nations of the world and international organisations to put an end to the Gulf war and to convene an international conference to discuss all problems of the region.

"Our main aim is to stop this war immeditely and to help open the door for dialogue and peaceful negotiations," the women's statement said.

They said that the United States aggression on Iraq was designed as a means to secure American hegemony on the Arabs and ensure domination of the oil wealth of the Arab World.

"We in Jordan are threatened by Israel which openly declares its expansionist and aggressive plans, and its aim of evicting our brothers and sisters from the occupied West Bank, while our children live in constant fear of the future," the statement added.

Citizens in Iraq 'Well'; Embassy Normal

NC2301132491 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad has said that all Jordanian citizens in Iraq are well and that the embassy has received no reports to the contrary. In a report to the Foreign Ministry, he said that the Jordanian Embassy is operating normally, is receiving citizens, and is providing the necessary services to them.

City Groups Donate Blood, Money To Support Iraq

NC2301141291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] In light of the popular enthusiasm to support Iraq against the Western alliance, Jordanian citizens have made individual donations for Iraq. In the southern city of Ma'an, a 10-man popular committee was set up to collect donations. The committee said it is offering 1,000 Jordanian dinars to anyone who captures an allied pilot. In Amman, citizens donated money and jewelry to support Iraq's military effort, and dozens of people donated blood.

Meanwhile, some deputies, especially the Islamists, called on the Iranian Government to join the battle alongside Iraq to defend the Islamic nation. Jordan and Iran recently resumed diplomatic relations which Iran had severed in 1981 against the backdrop of Amman's support for Baghdad during the Gulf war.

Pharmacists Collect Money, Medicines For Iraq

JN2401075991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jan 91 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian pharmacists have raised JD 150,000 in cash and in-kind assistance in contributions for the Iraqi people, among other measures to show solidarity with Iraq.

Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA) President Taysir al-Himsi made the announcement at an emergency meeting of the JPA general assembly at the Profession Associations complex in Amman Wednesday.

The JPA has opened the door for its members to volunteer and fight along-side the Iraqi armed forces and people, and all pharmacies will be opened in Jordan around the clock to offer emergency services should the war engulf Jordan or in case of an Israeli aggression on the Kingdom, al-Himsi said.

Al-Himsi demanded that all pharmacists cooperate with the government, private hospitals and health centres as well as the People's Army. The JPA will have to shoulder its responsibility in any confrontation with the enemy and its cooperation with the government and its continued supplies of medicines to the Iraqi people in conjunction with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) was essential, al-Himsi noted.

He said that the JPA has secured several consignments of medicine to Iraq in various ways and through different means. Al-Himsi disclosed that employees of the Ministry of Education have collected JD 37,000 worth of medicine for Iraq, and noted that a special JPA commitee has been assigned the task of collecting contributions for Iraq. Al-Himsi also announced the formation of a higher emergency council which comprises representatives of other professional associations as well JPA in order to organise support for Iraq and to collect blood donations.

The JPA he said, is in dire need of JD 200,000 to help reopen Ibn- al-Bitar hospital in Baghdad, and at least 50 doctors and surgeons are expected here from Algeria on their way for Baghdad to provide medical assistance.

One of the JPA members, Amin Shuqayr, announced a donation of JD 25,000 for the national efforts to help Iraq, while other members announced smaller donations for the cause.

Later, al-Himsi and a team representing the JPA board called on speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad al-Lawzi and reviewed with him official and public activities related to the national efforts to bolster Jordanian's steadfastness and help for the Iraqi people.

Al-Lawzi told the team that the Upper House was in constant touch with the various world parliaments inviting them to send teams here and study the situation and acquaint themselves with the Jordanian position and the danger inherent in the Gulf war. Al-Lawzi said parliament will be willing to support any mobilisation effort undertaken by the Jordanian organisations.

More Evacuees Cross Border, Arrive From Iraq

JN2401070091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—A total of 12,000 evacuees have arrived here from Iraq since the air raids on Iraq began last Thursday, and a total of 7,366 evacuees of different nationalities crossed into Jordanian territory Wednesday, according to an announcement by Salamah Hammad head of the evacuees affairs committee.

Jordan is committed to the agreement reached recently with the United Nations Resident Representative in Amman 'Ali 'Atiqah, and will make arrangements for housing the evacuees at al-Azraq Camp One and al-Azraq Camp Two which have been equipped for this purpose, Hammad said in his statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The evacuees were allowed in following the conclusion of the agreement with the United Nations office after the concerned international organisations pledged to cover the cost of food supplies, transport and medical services for the evacuees before their repatriation to their homeland.

The pledges came following Jordan's earlier decision to close the border with Iraq because of the failure on the part of foreign governments and international organisations to pay compensation to Jordan for the $56 million it had spent on the earlier waves of evacuees.

According to Hammad, his committee is maintaining close coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP), the

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Disaster and Relief Organisation (UNDRO) following a series of meetings held to review arrangements for receiving the evacuees at al-Ruwayshid border post and their housing at the two camps.

Hammad said that al-Azraq Camp Three will be ready in the coming few days along with the al-Rabiyah workers city at al-'Aqabah.

Solons Decry Turkish Position on Gulf Crisis

JN2301102791 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—Members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Tuesday criticized the Turkish government position towards the Gulf crisis. They said that the changing Turkish position contravened Islamic beliefs and traditions which call for Islamic solidarity and forbids siding with the infidels.

The parliament members interviewed by Petra expressed wonder at the change of the Turkish position, saying that Turkey would not take part in any attack against Iraq, nor will it allow any of the U.S.-alliance war planes to take off from its territory.

Spokesman for the Islamist bloc at the Lower House Ahmad Qutaysh al-Azayidah said Turkey's position contravenes totally with the Islamic faith and Islamic Law, and with the history of that Muslim country, which served as a very strong wall in the face of the Crusades, particularly during the 18th and 19th centuries.

He called on the Turkish Muslim people to counter any attack on and any intervention in a Muslim country. He noted that the present Turkish position enhances the attempts to detach Turkey from its Islamic environment.

Deputy Fakhri Qa'war voiced dissastifaction with the Turkish position, and said he expected a shift in this position in favour of Iraq and the Arab and Muslim nations.

Deputy Dhuqan al-Hindawi said Turkey has joined the camp of the enemies of the Arab Nation by allowing the U.S. allies to use its airbases to carry out attacks against Iraq. Al-Hindawi added that America and Israel were planning to liquidate Arab causes, by attacking Iraq. He noted that whoever keeps silent over the attack or takes part in it is an enemy of the whole Arab Nation.

Deputy Salim al-Zu'bi said it was clear that the U.S.-led campaign against Iraq was designed to destroy the state of national awakening the Arab and Muslims countries are going through, and to obliterate the Arab and Islamic civilisations.

He added that Arab masses will determine the outcome of this battle, by supporting Iraq and extending every possible help for it.

Deputy Layth Shubaylat said that the Turkish position was bad and was in line with the American policy, noting that the United States has paid Turkey billions of dollars as a price of this position. He added that it was hightime for Turkey to find out, after being refused to join the European Community and after sacrificing great proportions of its budgets to maintain the presence of the largest world armies, to go back to its Islamic roots and contribute to leading the Islamic nation against Zionist forces of oppression.

Deputy Muhammd Faris al-Tarawinah described the Turkish position as hostile to the whole Arab Nation and Arab and Islamic aspirations in liberating the usurped land and ensuring the fair distribution of Arab wealth.

He said that Turkey's position was against the genuine Turkish interests and detrimental to its historical relations with the Arab Nation.

Upper House of Parliament member Jum'ah Hammad expressed surprise at Turkey's position, saying that it has great economic interests with Iraq. He noted that Turkey nets more than $2.5 billion as revenues from the Iraqi oil pipeline, which passes through the Turkish land. Hammad wondered how the Turkish decision-makers accepted to undermine their economic interests with the Arabs and particularly with Iraq, and to forget all the religious ties that have linked the Arabs and Turks throughout history. Hammad pointed out that the hostile Turkish position was prompted by the huge financial aid Turkey had received in return for a new role within the North Atlantic Treaty organisation (NATO), and as a result of its close relations with the U.S.

Hammad referred to the opposition movements in Turkey saying that there was great resistance for this position among the Turkish people and among some Turkish officials.

The resignations of the foreign minister, the chief of staff and the commander in chief of the Turkish army were not but a true evidence of such an opposition.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ahmad 'Innab said the Turkish position contravened with all values and relations of good neighbourhood, religion, and culture, saying that the Turkish government was tempted by the volume of aid pledged or received.

Al-Salt Deputy Samir Qa'war said the Arabs and Muslim worlds were shocked by the Turkish position, and its decision auhorising the U.S.-led forces to use Turkish bases to launch attacks against Iraq. He called on Turkey to reconsider its position to safeguard its interests and those of the countries of the region.

Senator and former prime minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat described the Turkish position as extremely grave, given the historical background and the joint borders between Turkey and Iraq. 'Ubaydat noted that condemnation of the Turkish position was a must. He called on all Arab

and Muslim nations to move at all official and national levels to condemn the position of the Turkish leadership against Iraq.

Deputy speaker of the Lower House 'Atif al-Butush said the Turkish government's position was contrary to the will of the Turkish people. He voiced hope that the Turkish people stop this alliance with the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations and to exercise pressure on their government to cause it to change its position.

Editorial Urges Defeat of 'New Crusaders'

JN2301124791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Jan 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "We Fight With God's Sword, and They Fight With Satan's Sword"]

[Text] Moscow has voted in favor of the Crusaders' scheme to slaughter the Arabs and Muslims. Paris, which continues to be nostalgic for its colonialist days, has done the same. In less than a week, many liars have begun to speak about security and peace, yet, less than five hours after hundreds of planes took off to bombard the Iraqi cities, an American announcement said that everything had been destroyed, the liberation of Kuwait had been achieved, and advancement toward Baghdad was imminent. Later, the truth became clear, and the new Crusaders' defeat began to be confirmed and entrenched with every sortie. The facts that have become clear are far less than those that will become clear to show this defeat and the collapse of the delusions of Bush, Mitterrand, Major, Shamir, and the rest of the big and worthless allies.

The Americans know that the first week of fighting has left behind many orphans, widows, and bereaved people, what the American people do not yet know is that these people are their sons, women, and fathers. The British also know this fact, and arrangements have been made to conceal it. However, it will become clear in the near future. The big and worthless allies also know that not only did Baghdad stand fast, it also trapped its enemies in a devastating ambush.

They have been bombarding the Iraqi cities for seven days now, and the Crusaders' mission is turning into a big failure. The allies, politicians and military men, and the news media are continuing to repeat the big lie of accomplishing the mission in five days. Seven days, and the Iraqis are growing in the minds and hearts of the Arabs and Muslims, while their enemies defeat is continuing along with all that they have prepared in means of destruction, and all they have been deluded into believing they achieved within hours or days. Horror haunts them, confusion is torpedoing their Crusade nature, and their prisoners, dead, and wounded are increasing every moment.

Still, there is a long battle that has not yet started. The Americans, British, Zionists, French, Italians, and the entire alliance of evildoers, infidels, and Crusaders should be punished in the field of our Arab homeland and Islamic world. Their interests and all the war criminals who are wrapped with the blazing cloak of oil should be pursued.

It is the Arab and Islamic day of judgment that must clean this homeland of its enemies, their allies, and those who have been deluded that Baghdad will not be able to confront all of them together, and that the Iraqis are unable to destroy the new Crusades, their symbols, interests, and fascist dreams.

O killers and war criminals. O you who dream of dancing over our bodies and of attacking the Arabs and Muslims over the tomb of their prophet and from near their sanctities, jihad has started. Our homeland will be a graveyard for you, especially since we are fighting you today and will fight you tomorrow with the sword of God and Muhammad. In this case, what can your arsenal do?

Editorial Criticizes European Role in Crisis

JN2401065091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jan 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Deep Wounds, Long Memory"]

[Text] Much hope was pinned during the run-up of the Gulf crisis to the explosion of the war on Jan. 16 that the European countries, particularly France and Italy, would somehow break free from the American-inspired move towards the war option and would have the guts to stand up and tell Washington that the use of force was not the answer to the problem. As it turned out, the hopes were ill-founded. These two countries, along with Britain, all of whom enjoyed exceptional relations with the Arab World to the extent that they seemed very familiar with the pulse of the Arab masses, are now equal partners in the massive assault against Iraq.

While one can understand the European approach, which rules out the acquisition of territory by force—a principle staunchly adhered to by Jordan and most Arab states—it is indeed very difficult to comprehend the apparent vengeance with which the European allies in the anti-Iraq coalition are battering an Arab country. If that is not enough, then one only has to look at some of the gleeful war communiques issued from Paris, Rome and London. War is war indeed, but is it war that is being orchestrated against Iraq today? Isn't it aimed at the annihilation of a nation?

It may be naive at this point to issue a fresh remainder to the Europeans that they would indeed be the net loser in the bargain if the U.S. were to achieve its strategic, military and economic objectives in the Middle East: That of acquiring total domination of Arab oil resources, output and international prices as well as doing away with an Arab military power. But facts remain facts and they also include the reality that the war now being fought in the Gulf is an Israeli war fought by the U.S. to protect the Jewish state's interests.

At the same time, what should be very resounding to the Europeans that they seem to have overlooked not only the great damage that their alliance with the U.S. has done to its relations with the Arab man on the street but also the long-term repercussions of their participation in a war of destruction and dismemberment of the Arab and Muslim nation of Iraq.

What is even more suprising is the full-fledged Turkish contribution to the massacre in Iraq. Turkey is not only an Islamic country but also very much in the Arab region and its links with the Arab World need no emphasis. One would have expected Turkey to adopt indeed a defensive position, but not to offer its territory for aggression against Iraq.

No matter what which way the Gulf war turns out, the wounds inflicted by he Europeans on the Arab mind and heart will not be easily healed. And the Arabs do not have a short memory.

'Some Arabs' Urged To Change 'Hostile' Stand

JN2301140191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Jan 91 p 14

[Article by Shafiq 'Ubaydat: "Iraq Is Strong, O Evildoers"]

[Text] Before the aggression against the Iraq of pride and dignity began, and before the Gulf crisis started on 2 August last year, we used to follow the campaign led by America and Britain against Iraq. We knew full well that the reason for this campaign was because Iraq has built a great force, and because America and the Europeans do not want to allow any Arab state to possess the power to defend the Arab rights, the plundered Arab wealth, and the usurped Arab dignity. This great force aroused the anger of America, the European states, and some Zionized Arab regimes, and Israel, especially since all these sides know very well that Iraq will not allow them to plunder Arab wealth and usurp Arab will, and that it will be the deterrent force of liberation and emancipation.

Some Arab regimes, that are deprived of their will and that are mortgaged to Zionism, America, and its allies, repeat what is dictated on them by the reports of the American, Western, and Zionist intelligence, and the Western news media. They spit out rancorous poison against Arab Iraq that is defending the nation's dignity and right, after these regimes have sold themselves to the enemies of the Arabs for the sake of the dollar, which they believe can protect them from the people's punishment.

Iraq, which is now bravely defending the Arab nation and sacrificing its sons on behalf of this nation, must not be confronted with ungratefulness and hostility by some Arab regimes that are now standing on the side of the enemies and announcing frankly that they are with Israel against Iraq, because, as their news media say, Iraq is the party that started aggression against Israel. These regimes have forgotten that Israel is the number one enemy of the Arab nation, and that it is still occupying Palestine, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon.

O Sirs, it is time now to change your hostile stands toward Iraq, especially since the objective of the aggression that is being launched by the allied forces of evil and tyranny in the Arabian Peninsula is not to liberate Kuwait, but to destroy the Arab force, plunder the Arab wealth, subjugate the nation, and trample the dignity of its peoples. If the objective of this aggression against Iraq was to liberate Kuwait, then why all have these forces remained silent all this time and approved the slaughtering of the Palestinian people in Palestine by the Zionist occupiers?

We know that the dollar has blinded you. It has blinded some Arab regimes, which now only see what America, its allies, and Zionism see. We had wished that this dollar would silence you so that we would not hear your discordant voices which are tuned to the frequencies of the nation's enemies, and repeat what is being repeated by their aggressive organs. Iraq, O Sirs, is strong and capable of destroying the forces of evil and aggression, and you, God willing, will be among them.

Minister: Damascus 'Stands Fully Behind' UN

LD2301163291 Hamburg DPA in German 1559 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus (DPA)—For the first time since the outbreak of the Gulf war, Syria has reaffirmed that it will stay in the anti-Iraqi alliance led by the United States. In a DPA interview in Damascus today, Syrian Minister of Information Muhammad Salman said that Syria stands fully behind the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the decisions of the Arab summit in Cairo last August, which demand Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

He said that Syria had condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait from the beginning, and demanded that the Iraqis withdraw from Kuwait. Syria also condemned Saddam's attempt to involve Israel in the war. Every decision in connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict must be made jointly by all Arabs, the minister said.

No Arab country has the right to act alone, and certainly not in this "pan-Arab, national cause," Salman said. "If Iraq is serious about playing a role in the Arab-Israeli conflict, then it should never have marched into Kuwait." Instead of this, it should have supported pan-Arab efforts to remove divergences and thus support Arab solidarity.

At the same time the minister opposed an Israeli counterattack on Iraq. "Everyone knows that Israel is at war with the Arab nation. Israel is an aggressor occupying Arab territory, and therefore has no right to use any excuse (to carry out a counterattack), as it itself carries out aggression daily," Muhammad Salman said in explaining Syria's attitude.

Stresses Iraqi Withdrawal

NC2401073591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus—Information Minister Muhammad Salman has stressed that Syria continues to demand that the Iraqi Government withdraw from Kuwait and spare the Gulf region a prolongation of this war, which has proven to be painful and harmful to all Arabs.

In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo yesterday, the information minister said the decision in the Arab-Israeli conflict must be an Arab decision, and no Arab country has the right to act singlehandedly on this pan-Arab issue. Had the Iraqi Government been seriously seeking to play a role in the Arab-Israeli conflict, instead of invading Kuwait, it should have contributed to the efforts that were being exerted to eliminate inter-Arab differences in a bid to attain Arab solidarity.

The information minister added: The war, with its attendant material and psychological damage, will have repercussions on the entire Arab nation, of which Syria is a part. For this reason, we made sincere efforts to avert this war by trying to persuade the Iraqi Government to withdraw from Kuwait; unfortunately, these efforts were to no avail.

In response to a question on the so-called alliance against Iraq, the information minister said this name was given by those who harbor ill will; we affirm there is no alliance against Iraq, but rather a resolution by the Security Council authorizing the party that is the victim of the aggression and other countries to work to eliminate the aggression. So, it is not a matter of an alliance but of the international community. The Iraqi Government's acceptance of the will of the international community will put an end to this situation, and Syria is committed to the resolutions of the Arab summit and the United States. Since the very first moments, it has reiterated its firm stand rejecting the Iraqi incursion into Kuwait.

In response to another question, Information Minister Muhammad Salman said Israel is in a state of war with the Arab nation. It is an aggressor that occupies Arab territory, and it has no right to find any excuse when it commits aggression everyday.

Islamic Groups Voice Support for Iraq

Muslim Brotherhood's Call

JN2301100391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jan 91 p 13

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood movement in Syria has issued a statement calling for supporting Iraq and standing at its side against the treacherous American-Zionist aggression.

The statement said that the decisive moment in our history has come to liberate ourselves from the foreign tyranny and the Zionist cancer so that the age of Arab sovereignty and Islamic pride will begin. The statement added that the spirit of jihad is awakening in Muslims in Palestine, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and over all the Islamic world to support Iraq against the brutal onslaught launched against it by the forces of world arrogance, led by America.

The statement said that the American enemy and its allies have declared war against Iraq because it has rejected international trusteeship and because it possesses the means of force to regain the blessed land and holy Jerusalem.

Concluding, the statement said: O our daughters and sons in beloved Syria: The promise and the right moment of salvation are getting closer, so let us be one front in the face of the enemies and stand on the side of Iraq, which is waging jihad against the usurper American-Zionist enemy so as to restore dignity and pride to all our citizens.

Islamic Jihad's Statement

JN2301074591 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 16 Jan 91 p 5

[By AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent]

[Text] Baghdad—'Adnan Sa'd-al-Din, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement [IJM] in Syria, has stated that heroic leader Saddam Husayn has woken the sleepy, moved the indifferent, and revived hopes in the hearts of the nation after a long period of silence.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, he said: "We all stand behind his excellency's wise leadership with all our energies, and the Syrian people will never forget their brothers even though their leaders have abandoned the right course."

He added that the Syrian people will become mujahidin and will stand by their Iraqi brothers until they realize one of the best two outcomes: Victory or martyrdom.

The IJM leader in Syria stressed that the mujahidin have confronted the foreign invasion without reservation because they believe that Islam makes it incumbent on them to fight if the homeland and nation are attacked. Therefore, he added, they have decided to fight the unjust and confront the aggressors.

He also attacked the Syrian regime, stressing that it has paralyzed the Syrian people's role, liquidated the honest Army officers, oriented the Army toward sectarianism and used it to oppress the people instead of protecting the homeland.

He affirmed that the Syrian people are waiting to destroy that criminal sectarian rule, which has made Syria a den of conspiracy against everything that is Arab or Muslim, after it had been a haven for free people, a place for brave men, and the innermost heart of the Arab people and Islamic nation.

Iraq's Actions 'Have Nothing To Do With Islam'

NC2001073891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] In a statement issued in Damascus today on behalf of the ulema, preachers, and men of religion, the Ministry of Awqaf finds that the Iraqi regime's policy and the ensuing breakout of the destructive Gulf war have nothing to do with Islam. Indeed, the statement notes, they are the opposite of Islam. The statement says that President Saddam Husayn's use of Islamic slogans to justify his misdeed on religious grounds is an exposed attempt that our true religion condemns. Likewise, the perpetrator of this misdeed has nothing to do with Islam.

The statement condemns this mideed as well as the exposed and losing criminal game by which the Iraqi regime drew the country and its army and people into a hellish and unjust war. The statement adds that the Iraqi regime's sole objective in the war is to involve the Arab and Islamic nation in a most perilous and disastrous situation. The war, the statement notes, has nothing to do with national, pan-Arab, and legitimate values.

The statement urges Arabs and Muslims to be aware of the Iraqi regime's criminal goals. These goals, the statement adds, seek to harm the dignity of Arabism and Islam, giving legitimacy and legality to the invasion of Kuwait and eliciting sympathy and support for the Iraqi regime.

In the statement, the Ministry of Awqaf says: The Iraqi regime should have spared its people the afflictions of this destructive war and should have saved resources and military capabilities for the awaited crucial war to liberate the occupied Arab territories and rescue the holy Islamic shrines from the claws of the occupation.

The statement praises the brotherly and pan-Arab message that President Hafiz al-Asad addressed to the Iraqi president calling on him to spare Iraq a destructive war by withdrawing from Kuwait and joining the ranks confronting the dangers to our land, interests, dignity, and destiny. The statement emphasizes his excellency the president's assertion that Israel is the sole benefactor; the enemies should be denied this opportunity through our own action and decision. The statement urges Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait to spare the Iraqi people and the Arab and Islamic nation this crazy war which is unacceptable to Islam. The statement explains that in their Friday sermons yesterday, the preachers at the mosques held President Saddam Husayn responsible for the eruption of the war and its attendant evils, destruction, and losses. They called for Iraq's withdrawal to deny the enemy this opportunity. They beseeched God to safeguard the Islamic nation from the results of the sedition and ordeals afflicting them, and to unify Arab and Muslim ranks to achieve the supreme pan-Arab and Islamic interests.

Local Government Elections Scheduled for 21 Feb

NC2001140091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has issued Decree No. 41 setting the date for the election of the councils of the governorates and the governorate centers as Thursday, 21 February.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Message Urges Gulf Cease-Fire

LD2101182591 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has sent separate messages on the recent developments in the Gulf to His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid, president of Algeria; His Excellency Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, president of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, President of Yemen; His Excellency General Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of Tunisia; His Excellency Raif Dizdarevic [as heard], president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement; His Excellency King Husayn, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; His Excellency Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; and His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, head of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO, with the following text:

Dear brother: Only five days have passed since the flames of war began burning in the Gulf region; however, as a result of the intensification and expansion of this unfortunate war, the extent of human casualties and financial damage and destruction has reached frightening dimensions. All humanity, and especially the Islamic Ummah [nation], are seriously concerned about the effect of this war on peace in the region and in the world. The war that has begun burns the foundations of the regional Arab and Muslim countries, and increases the possibilities of spreading the dimensions of the conflict to neighboring countries and region by every moment. The Muslim nation of Afghanistan, which has itself suffered the pains of almost 12 years of war, understands fully the dangerous consequences of the war, and cannot remain indifferent toward the grave prospect of the war in the Gulf region, which has affected Arabs, Muslims, and all the world.

Only one day before military operations against Iraq began, I requested that the United States use its other means, as a superpower and permanent member of the UN Security Council, to avoid the use of force, whatever its means or aim may be. Unfortunately the international efforts to prevent armed conflict in this sensitive and important part of the world did not yield results. Despite this, there remains the possibility of finding a political solution to immediately end the armed hostilities and prevent spreading this conflict. The new climate of cooperation to reduce tensions in the sphere of international relations has prepared the necessary solutions to solve notable regional and world issues. There is no doubt that the existing conditions would have and will have made a contribution toward finding a fair and just solution to all regional problems and conflicts.

Having appreciated the efforts of its dear brothers toward a comprehensive political solution to the issues in the Gulf and Middle East and an end to war, the Republic of Afghanistan proposes that all of us mobilize all our efforts, without delay, to end combat operations and establish an immediate cease-fire in the Gulf.

Along with the establishment of a cease-fire, it is necessary that serious and wide diplomatic efforts begin so that an agreement by all sides on the convocation of an international peace conference on the Middle East is obtained. In the course of the preparatory period for an international conference, efforts should be made so that, in utilizing all internationally accepted mechanisms for the peaceful solution of disputes, objective and realistic ways and means are provided for all aspects of the problems in the Middle East and Gulf tension. The establishment of an immediate cease-fire will, on one hand, prevent the creation of inconceivable human suffering, and on the other, prepare the proper conditions for diplomatic efforts to make use of suitable political ways and means. We believe the chance for peace has still not been lost. Arab and Islamic countries have the ability and talent to utilize every possibility, bring together their common aims and principles at any moment, and solve their own problems without resorting to force or foreign interference.

Under such conditions, when with the passing of every moment a great number of human beings lose their lives and great destruction is inflicted, I ask you to embark upon joint actions toward putting out the fire of war, without delay. In your efforts to this end you will have the moral and ethical support of the people and state of the Republic of Afghanistan. I wish you health and success in your humane efforts. I renew my profound regards.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

[dated] Kabul; 21 January, 1991.

Najibullah Reconciliation Policy Anniversary Speech

LD1601202791 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Speech by President Najibullah marking the fourth anniversary of the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation; place and date not specified—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Dear friends and esteemed guests. We have gathered here to mark the fourth anniversary of the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation. Four years ago the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan took the initiative of designing and introducing new policies for ending the war and bloodshed, restoring peace, and creating new ways for political and socioeconomic life. Now we can raise this question: Do we have the right or not to mark the fourth aniversary of the policy of national reconciliation as an important event in the country's life? Let us find the answer to this question from the facts of life. Which factors and facts made us review our policies and put before us the need for the new policy? Everyone knows that bloodshed and war continued for many years, and the flames of this war

burn the home and house of every Afghan. The continuation of war has intensified national discord, put everyone against each other, made the country's economy weaker, made dark the prospects for the future life of millions of our compatriots this side and the other side of our borders, and finally threatened territorial integrity and everything that our country possesses.

The intensification of armed intervention against the Republic of Afghanistan as a result of the presence of foreign troops, complicated further the situation, and caused social polarization. All these causes disrupted the stability of the situation and turned our country into a field of confrontation between forces and various international and regional policies. Clearly the inability and ineffectiveness of the past policies brought about the need for new thinking and the choice of a new political policy. [passage omitted]

It is because of the policy of national reconciliation that today we hear two distinct voices from among the opposition: The voice of those who, together with us, reject the military solution and call for a peaceful solution of the issues. Second, the voice of those who call for the continuation of war. The same situation exists among the opposition's commanders inside the country. The policy of national reconciliation and understanding was put to the commanders inside the country who have closely perceived the pain of war. It is clear, however, that those leaders of formations and commanders see their interests in the continuation of war; because of the continuation of war they preserve their power and privileges. They pursue all possibilities for creating obstacles and disbelief vis-a-vis our policy.

Dear friends: Choosing the policy of national reconciliation provided actual possibilities and necessary conditions for signing the Geneva accords and the withdrawal of foreign forces from the country. Thus the major pretext alleging that foreign intervention is an obstacle for understanding in the country was removed. Afghanistan's and the Soviet Union's adherence to the Geneva accords, reflected in the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, and repeated violation of the Geneva accords by the other side, rapidly changed international public opinion regarding the issue of Afghanistan. The international status of the Republic of Afghanistan has been further consolidated today. For this we see the value and righteousness of the policy of national reconciliation.

The new movement in talks between the guarantors of the Geneva accords—the United States and the USSR—concerning the question of Afghanistan and the shaping of joint positions on addressing the political solution of the problem, based on realities in Afghanistan, has an unbreakable and direct link with our new policies. We continue to stress that a military solution to the question of Afghanistan has no future. There is only one solution, and that is a peaceful political solution. We have categorically stated that in order to put an end to war, there is no other way but talks, compromises, understanding, and cease-fire. Today, national and international circles realize the importance and usefulness of these proposals. Overlooking our proposals means the continuation of war and bloodshed.

With the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, the strength of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan toward defending the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of Afghanistan was put to a hard test. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan, within the framework of the policy of national reconciliation, has prepared real possibilities for the unity of forces in support of peace, and thus successfuly passed this hard test. During the past two years our military doctrine has truly been of defensive character. [passage omitted] After the withdrawal of the Soviet forces the irreconcilable extremists launched dozens of offensive operations in Nangarhar, Khowst, Kabul, Zabol, and some other regions. They achieved no major victories. Our armed forces, who carry the banner of peace and reconciliation, were in defensive positions, and the main aim of their defense was to defend the people, and maintain security and transportation. We have gone on the offensive only twice: operations around Kabul city and Jalalabad. The aim of these operation was to maintain further security for the people against missile attacks by the opposition. Today, in the country's cities and villages, everyone realizes that the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are the major force in safeguarding stability and the establishment of total peace in the country.

Dear friends, it has been heard from time to time that our defensive measures contravene the policy of national reconciliation. In this regard it should be categorically pointed out that under conditions when extremist forces in the country have still not expressed their will toward ceasing military operations, how can a legitimate defense against aggression be abandoned? We talk here about legitimate defense. [passage indistinct]

Because of our feeling of responsibility for the people and the homeland, we cannot allow the creation of a power vacuum in the country. It should not be forgotten what suffering was brought about as a result of the creation of such a power vacuum in Konar, Bamian, and some other parts, on the people in those regions? Battles for power have transformed these regions to bloody battlefields of rivalry between the armed forces of the opposition. Order and legality, previously managed by the state, have been destroyed in a catastrophic way.

The military doctrine of the Republic of Afghanistan based on the principle of defending the interests of the homeland and people, has attracted the broad support of the people. With pride we can say today that the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are many times stronger than two years ago. Tens of thousands of the courageous and patriotic sons of the homeland are being organized in its ranks. This shows the importance of a realistic political vision of the Republic of Afghanistan regarding national reconciliation and the defense of peace.

Esteemed compatriots. Our gains in the past four years were not limited to the military and political fields. [passage omitted]

I read in some newspapers that there is no democracy because such-and-such an opposition force does not have a newspaper or a weekly. Because they do not have a newspaper, there is no democracy. We have declared freedom of the press, of speech. There are laws. There is the constitution. And we have said several times—come, have negotiations and a dialogue. Come into the country. Take advantage of the situation. Do not fight, lay down your arms. Do not use armed struggle, use legitimate, legal and political struggle, and enter the campaign theater. We have not blocked that course. They are the ones who do not want it. Thus, by using an idea imposed on them by others, they have alleged wrongly that democracy does not exist. Are we in fact campaigning for the sensible evolution of democracy, or do we want it in one form or the other under the title of defense of democracy? God forbid we act for the subversion of democracy. [passage omitted]

Various social groups, in the light of democracy, contribute, independently, and with understanding for national obligations, to the general struggle for the restoration of peace. A new movement in social activities paves the way for the revival of national unity and increased confidence. This reveals the uniting and rallying impact of our national reconciliation policy. National reconciliation, which rests on the principles of Islam and values of Afghan society, has become the confident base of our thinking and thought.

Dear compatriots and esteemed friends. One aim of our reconciliation policy is the cooling of war's furnace through attaining understanding among Afghans and groups and organizations, a section of which still unfortunately remains hostile and favoring armed confrontation. The experience of recent years, especially the past two years, has proved this fact. As experience shows, the knowledge of the historic need to refrain from armed confrontation and to turn belligerent forces to understanding and negotiation takes time. [passage omitted]

What proposals have been put forward by the warmongers? There were those who claimed that the objective of their jihad was the withdrawal of foreign forces, yet after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, they tried with all their might to topple the sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan and by chanting the slogan of "War to the last Afghan," further soiled their hands with the blood of their compatriots and destroyed the homes and dwellings of the people. The enemies of reconciliation and national understanding are openly engaged in fighting for power. No program, no proposal, and no plan has yet been put forward for ending the war by the extremist forces. These people invite other opposition forces to become irreconciliable, and disrupt their readiness for talks and understanding by way of threats and intimidation, while themselves secretly trying—in the absence of other opposition forces and by negating them—to make a deal to attain power. You know who they are. Yes? Gulbuddin [word indistinct], he frightens the others and invite them to become irreconcilable. He says: Whoever holds talks with the government of Afghanistan commits treachery. We have exposed one or two examples of Gulbuddin trying, more than anybody else, to enter into government by design, in such a way that other forces are negated. But our policy is the policy of reconciliation. [passage omitted]

The experience of the past few years has revealed to all the true feature of the warmongers who are engaged in killing the people and committing treachery to their homeland. However, a large number of the opposition forces increasingly separate their path from that of the warmongers, and thus increase the number of those who choose the path of talks and understanding. During the past four years, 358,000 armed and unarmed forces of the opposition either came over to the side of the policy of national reconciliation or gave up armed activities against the government.

Our talks in Geneva with the representatives of the moderate portion of the opposition and Afghan personalities and broad contacts with most of the commanders and opposition leaders—as the first step for formal dialogue between Afghans—bring about the hope that we, in the not too distant future, if God wills, will be able to end hostility, and by holding elections lay the foundations for a future government.

The quintessence of national reconciliation is shrouded in the selection of the path of negotiation and understanding and the blocking of the path of armed confrontation and war. We realize understanding by the coming together of forces and the active participation of all, or the majority of them, in political and social life. Understanding among Afghans rests in profound contradictions, with suggestions of stepping aside of forces, the rejection of one by another, and putting forward of monopolistic slogans. For instance, we hear voices which sometimes stress the stepping aside of one force, and sometimes the stepping aside of belligerent forces and forces effective in the society. There are also people who would like to talk about a third line. It should be unambiguously said that the present problem of the country and the very difficult issue of the restoration of peace—under circumstances where there are weapons everywhere and normal social relations are substituted by armed confrontation—cannot be resolved by those proposals. There are those who speak of a silent majority; they mean by this the majority of the masses of the people. But they claim that the masses are not with the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. It is isolated from the people; the people are with them. To disprove this we proposed that we should go to people for their vote. Let the people and their vote show with whom the silent majority sides—the people and the masses. [passage omitted] The people of Afghanistan are sensible people. During the past 12 years they have learned well who are their friends and who are their foes, who is their servant and who are those who have sold them out. The

opposition is afraid of the ballot box and of the vote of the people, and assert they want to sort out matters by sword and war. The cessation of war necessitates agreement between the main and belligerent forces. Only this way will the flames of war be extinguished and the atmosphere of a healthy contest and campaign emerge. [passage omitted]

We call on all forces, including heads of organizaitons in Peshawar, the nine-party forces in Iran, internal commanders of the opposition, representatives of refugees, Afghans living in Europe and America, the former king and his supporters, for understanding. Apart from a few leaders of some organizations, our policy has gained favor and support among other forces.

Dear friends: If we compare the situation before the declaration of national reconciliation with today's situation, we can confidently claim that we have come a long and difficult way, and have come closer to our lofty aim, that is, ensuring peace. Reaching for peace has now turned from a mere wish to a real and tangible hope. With the passing of each day the perspective of the political solution of the Afghan problem become brighter and brighter. Many of the internal and foreign obstacles to resolving the problem have been removed. An increasing trend toward negotiation and dialogue inside Afghanistan, and the considerable change in international public opinion in its approach to the Afghan problem, bring about the possibility of being more confident about quickly achieving peace and stability. Everyone knows that military confrontation lacks any kind of perspective, and only adds to the misery of the people and the country. But we should not hide the fact that there are still considerable problems in the way of attaining the final goal, the most important of which are the obstinate insistence of the extremists on a military solution, and the lack of political will and good intention with some of their supporters abroad.

Some international incidents also caused international public opinion to be drawn to other issues, among them the Gulf crisis, which to some extent shadowed efforts for resolving Afghanistan's problems. While we have made our efforts for the continuation and acceleration of the process of dialogue and negotiations among internal forces and among foreign powers, we have also endeavored to take part in efforts to search for a solution to other crises, including the Gulf crisis, within the limits of capabilities. For instance, we sent letters to leaders of some Arab countries since the emergence of the problem, in which we discussed with them peaceful ways of resolving differences and ways of preventing a wide armed conflagration in the Gulf.

The United States of America, as a great world power and as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, has a great responsibility as regards international peace and security. We believe that besides its great military might, the United States has other equally grand means and capabilities, by effective application of which the need to resort to power will not arise. Meanwhile, the very import role the United States can play in resolving other Middle East issues, including the issue of the restoration of the rights of the people of Palestine, can be noted. By the same token we are also concerned about the nucleus of tension in our region.

I would now like to put before you another question worthy of your attention. My aim is international relations, and in particular relations with the countries of the region and our neighbors. In particular, today we turn to Pakistan. New developments on an international level and the ending of the cold war in the field of international relations demands that various countries of the world, proportionately with these conditions, situations, and circumstances, should review their foreign policies in proportion to these situations and conditions based on peaceful coexistence. Old strategies, as a whole, had a military-political character, whereas the new strategies have a political-economic character.

In light of present developments, the policies of every country should be based on realities, and not on past norms and standards. These policies should be based on bases which primarily maintain political stability in every country and the economic interests of both sides and the peoples of the two countries. This matter guarantees the right of the people toward achieving a better and higher level of life and the proper right of peoples to prosperity and well-being. It is important that one should have the courage and initiative of transforming the era of military dispute to the era of economic cooperation. We should know that diplomacy and policies of the past, which were mainly based on ideological approaches, no longer have a place in the present time.

Peace-loving people should pay attention to improving their economy. The international economic order in many aspects relies on the principle of survival, and the future interests and economy of our countries also depend on the correct and orderly utilization of this opportunity. Thus we are desirous of finding ways, methods, and new relations toward the development of mutual cooperation with new essence in our country. In particular we address Pakistan.

We can become economic partners with our neighbors instead of military adversaries. Now the fear of old strategies, such as the blockading of highways, access to waters and oceans, and the economic blockade of regions and countries do not have a place in the present, new international atmosphere. Instead, mutual interest and public welfare have priority. In this way all the goals which had been pursued secretly and through war and military action should now be developed openly, with courage, and in the interest of all our people.

Afghanistan is following this position through sincere efforts, peaceful cooperation, and the development of mutually advantageous interests with its neighbors. Confrontation, which was the legacy of long years of a psychological atmosphere of hostility, should leave a place for a new diplomacy and mutual cooperation. The

region where Afghanistan and Pakistan are situated enjoys gigantic economic reservoirs and possibilities. These possibilities could be utilized, not in the interests of confrontation but in the interests of peaceful cooperation, the solution of socioeconomic problems in both our countries and in other countries in our region, toward strengthening peace, stability, friendship, cooperation and mutally advantageous multilateral interests.

In the framework of such relations and cooperation we can provide the psychological, political, and practical grounds for the alleviation of present and past political problems. We attach special importance to our relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, a neighboring country with which we have long had historic and cultural links. We believe there are plenty of opportunities for the expansion and consolidation of relation between our two Islamic countries. For our part we make due efforts to utilize them, and express optimism following the steps recently taken in this respect.

The People's Republic of China, as one of the world's great countries, and as our neighbor, can play an important role in the consolidation of peace and stability in Afghanistan and in the region, and can play an important part in the reconstruction of our country. We welcome the positive development which has appeared in the attitude of the People's Republic of China to Afghanistan's problems, and consider it in compliance with the wishes and interests of the people of our two countries.

Our ancient and traditionally friendly relations with the Republic of India develop satisfactorily and continuously. Leaders of Afghanistan and India are persistently searching for new fields of mutually fruitful cooperation between their two countries. Recent developments in this respect are the manifestation of their interest and intentions for even further expansion of cooperation and friendly relations between our countries' governments and peoples.

Friendship and cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, which are developing on the basis of good neighborly relations, conform with the high national interests of the two countries. Continuous Soviet aid in various fields to Afghanistan, and as one of the guarantors of the Geneva agreements, that country's good offices for an agreement with the United States on the framework for, and principles of resolving the foreign aspects of the Afghan problem are cordially appreciated by the people of Afghanistan.

In view of the profound cultural and religious links of Afghanistan with Islamic and Arab countries, we want to increasingly deepen and expand friendly relations with these countries, and we have taken and take serious steps in this direction.

Being aware of the great importance which the revival and the enhancement of normal and friendly relations with the United States and other Western countries has for the restoration of peace and stability, and the reconstruction and socioeconomic develoment of Afghanistan, we will continue our cordial efforts in this respect.

Dear friends, esteemed compatriots, taking this opportunity today, I once again call on all opponent forces, clergy, national and social personalities, intellectuals and all patriotic Afghans to exert their efforts for the cessation of war, and to respond positively to the call for peace and reconciliation made by the Republic of Afghanistan. We say to the moderate section of the oppposition that war is not the means of resolving our country's problem. The people of Afghanistan have proved by their deeds that they do not accept any extremism, whether to the right or to the left. The people of Afghanistan want to unite under rational and realistic slogans, and save themselves forever from the scourge of war and disunity. Let us hold hands and realize that wish of our people.

We say to the leaders of extremist groups that the course of resolving problems through force has many times faced deadlock, and has no news but that of death and devastation.

If you have any consideration for the people of Afghanistan, silence the voice of rifles, guns, and rockets, and hear that the people of Afghanistan want from all engaged sides the cessation of war and fratricide. Listen to these painful voices and screams, and act accordingly.

We ask opposition forces based in Iran to look closely at our proposals and see how the interests and reasonable demands of all sections of Afghan society are realistically and logically instituted in them. Unfortunately some sides of the opposition reject irresponsibly and fanatically such interests and demands.

Internal commanders of the opposition who in fact have borne the brunt of the war, and are familiar with the pains and miseries of the people, understand more than the opposition forces based abroad the necessity of putting an end to the blood-shedding circumstance of the people and the futility of a military solution. We once again call on them to cease fire and to start a peaceful life and work. They should feel responsibility for the security and tranquillity of their localities, and become active in ensuring peace for and the protection of the socioeconomic foundations of their localities.

We call on Afghan personalities living in Europe and America, and ask them to endeavor to shorten the bitter epoch of bloodshed and hostility in their country by untilizing their knowledge, experience, and morale influence. Among them the positive role Mohammad Zahir Shah, former king of Afghanistan, and the people around him can play is especially in view. We have sent hundreds of letters to Afghan personalities living abroad, and have received positive and encouraging replies from many of them. The majority of these personalities, despite being away from their country, think about their country and the people, and have put forward interesting views for resolving the present situation. You have

become acquainted with the views of some of them through telephone interviews on radio and television. Some of the views were very useful in enriching and complimenting various proposals of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. The grateful people of Afghanistan will not forget the endeavors of those personalities for ensuring an even quicker peace, and expect them to accelerate their efforts for the cessation of war by their taking brave steps.

We tell our allied political forces within the country that steadfast unity and unity of action of all peace-loving forces guarantees the success of the policy of national reconciliation. Disunity among them will lead to chances for the cessation of war being made more remote. I would like to stress the role Afghanistan's peace front can play as a strong bridge between all belligerent sides. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Addresses Homeland Party Anniversary

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[Speech by President Najibullah in Kabul marking the 26th anniversary of the foundation of the Homeland (Watan) Party; date not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. Esteemed comrades and friends. First of all I would like to present the best cordial congratulations and greetings of the Central Council of the Homeland Party, its executive board, and my own to all members [of the party], peaceloving forces and noble people of Afghanistan, who have helped in the consolidation of our party during difficult years, on the occasion of the marking of the 26th anniversary of the party [applause]. [passage indistinct]

We have stressed several times that Afghan society should develop and progress in line with its existing realities. It is natural that for the logical acceleration of the development only rules peculiar to it can be effective and useful. Pursuing this principle, a year ago programs were declared to introduce really qualitative changes in the organizational structure of the party and to review party tasks and goals on the occasion of the 25th of anniversary of the party. Our party believes that the organizing of the sociopolitical life of the society based on democratic principles naturally requires the expansion and the enhancement of democracy inside the party.

The Homeland Party during its active political existence, whether it was in opposition or during the time it attained political power, always had nothing but the goal of serving the people of Afghanistan and the reconstruction of the society.

Dear comrades, profound changes on the world level and international relations required our party to assess them scrupulously, to outline political priorities and, in keeping with them, to design standards of approaching international problems and events. It is also natural that as a result of the implementation of national reconciliation policy, the ensuring of political pluralism and the plurality of parties, the introduction of the constitution and tens of other democratic programs of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, new trends and stances advantageous to peaceloving forces, not only among various social strata of our people but also in the armed rank and file and groups of the opposition, have come into existence which had to be scrupulously studied by our party. Our party's attitude toward those positive trends had to be set out and new steps proportionate to them needed to be taken for the expansion and deepening of national reconciliation policy. All aforementioned developments necessitated the convening of the party congress.

The process of the preparation for the convening of the second party congress revealed that the party leadership's assessments and conclusions to introduce wide changes in the opinion, vision, and practical activity of the party was broadly supported by the rank and file of our party.

In many election conferences and sessions of the party organization, thoughts and views of the party leadership on the need for fundamental changes in party structure, the amendment of the constitution and aims of the party on national and Afghan standards have been received with much tumult. The decisions of the Second Party Congress provided appropriate grounds for the removal of boundaries and restricted and narrow-minded molds which prevailed in the party for many years, and provided the requisite conditions for further and wider consolidation of the party. The congress criticially and scrupulously assessed the activities of the party as a whole over the past 25 years. Congress, taking into account the positive developments which had come into existence in the interest of peace, understanding, and dialogue at national and international levels, stressed the continuation of the policy of peace and national reconciliation, and assigned the Central Council of the Homeland Party to exert all its power to ensure national peace and advance dialogue and wide negotiations with the opposition.

The Second Party Congress accepted that our party is no longer a monopolizer of the power but as a political party it acts beside other political parties in full conformity with the constitution and other enforced laws of the land. It approved, taking into account national and Islamic characteristics of the society, popular goals that respond to the needs of passing from the stage of war and bloodshed to that of peace and reconstruction of the country. The new program rid the party from cliched stands and attitudes and dogma that often did not conform to the realities of our society. In the new program our party's adherence to the orders of Islam and the fine national traditions and customs of Afghanistan has been instituted. Also in the party congress a new constitution, which confirms with the existing realities of our society, has been approved. The party congress considers it necessary to change its name to Homeland Party in accordance with its present nature.

Comrades and friends, we mark today the 26th anniversary of the establishment of the party. As noted previously, it is not necessary to mention all the activities of the party, because the party congress has assessed various aspects of party activities in the past 26 years. The main question is how to implement party congress resolutions and decisions. It is necessary to note briefly the past year's developments and events and determine in its light our future tasks.

Last year was the year of major achievement for the expansion of democracy and the deepening of national reconciliation policy in the country. In this respect we can mention the convening of the Loya Jerga, the amending of the constitution, the formation of a new government, the restoration of some powers that were restricted under the state of emergency to the parliament of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the setting up of the Peace Front as the assembly center of peaceloving and patriotic forces of our country. Moreover, in line with new laws, new parties and social organizations have come into being in the political system, and a nongovernmental press has emerged.

The party, in the continuation of its outstanding role in the independent defense of the Republic of Afghanistan and consistent implementation of national reconciliation policy, attained new victories. The party and our heroic armed forces with the unsparing support of the brave people of the country aborted conspiracies planned by foreign enemies of Afghanistan, including the Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz coup d'etat, and the combat operations of the extremists, with spectacular results, especially in autumn, in various parts of the country. The armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, on top of the confident defense of their strategic position, achieved considerable advances in certain directions.

Passing through any of those tests increased the credibility and prestige of the Homeland Party among the people of Afghanistan and in world public opinion. Therefore I express the deep praise and pleasure of the party leadership to all its brave members and to all our compatriots, who either in the rank and file of the heroic armed forces of the country or in ranks of civil defenders, selflessly defended the country.

The Central Council of the Homeland Party and its Executive Delegation and Presidency took practical steps for the implementation of the congress's resolutions during the past year. Among these steps, the care level of party members has been enhanced. The members of the party's Central Council take part in work sessions and party ward session. They solve various problems in close contact with party members. According to the resolutions of the party, all instructions and regulations stemming from the party charter and action program are being drafted and approved. The Central Council has managed, in view of the qualitative changes approved by the congress, to convene seminars attended by organizational, popularization, enlightment, and party control officials. At these seminars the structure, norms, and new methods of party work have been comprehensively explained to those in charge of the above cadres. The Central Council of the Homeland party has completed the central and local apparatus structure in full conformity with the spirit of the resolutions passed at the Second Party Congress. Election of secretaries and officials in party wards and work committees has begun and is continuing. Furthermore, cooperation protocols have been concluded with a number of active political parties inside the country, as well as with a number of political parties active outside the country.

The Executive Delegation of the Central Council of the Homeland Party in the past six months has been considering the immediate issues regarding inner party life, independence defense, and broadening foundations on the basis of the principles of democracy in the country. It has also looked at the activities of the party and made necessary decisions.

The Central Council of the Homeland Party, through its relevant central apparatus, has secured broad and allround relations with party groups and social organizations, cultural societies of the compatriots, and the parliamentary faction of the Homeland Party. It has brought new impetus to the work of these groups and organizations. The party group of the Homeland Party has taken an active and constructive role in setting up the Peace Front of the Republic of Afghanistan. Hence, I express my appreciation to those in charge and to members of these groups. The Executive Delegation of the Homeland Party held a session on 30 December and decided that the session of the Central Council of the Homeland Party should be convened in the near future, at which the major subsequent duties of the party can be specified and upon which discussion will be held at the session. At the coming session of the Central Council of the Homeland Party serious issues will be discussed. The party has resolutely decided to continue the policy of national reconciliation in various socio-economic and political dimensions together with progressive initiatives in conformity with dictates of the sacred religion of Islam, customs, and traditions of the people. It will play its role in deepening the policy of national reconciliation as a major national force. Of course, the interests of other political forces is not at issue, but as a major national force it should prove itself in practice, although so far it has proven, and election will establish this. [sentence as heard]

The organization and active participation of the party for the independent defense and mobilization of the people for the defense of the homeland during the difficult process of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops can be regarded as part of the pride of our party and its members.

It has been decided that prior to the convocation of the Party's Central Council session, in consideration of practical voting experience as well as general views of the party members concerning the most major national and

party issues, the general discussions of the party members in connection with the voting issue will be organized. We believe that, in the first instance, broadening of democracy in a party is an essential task. Therefore, in the general discussion that will soon commence, efforts will be made so that the party members present their views, and proposals concerning the future shape of the party policy regarding political and ideological areas and all practical activities of the party. The Homeland Party and all its members in various parts of the country must know that the policy of national reconciliation and the decisions made at the party congress prove their necessity and essential quality with the passing of each day in terms of the solution of issues regarding Afghanistan. They will form an acceptable alternative for all Afghans. As the party is the designer of the policy of national reconciliation, each member of the party has the duty to play a role in its implementation with further initiative and activities.

Esteemed comrades: the fourth anniversary of the policy of national reconciliation that raised for the first time methods for the political solution of the issues by practical steps, will be marked on 25 Jadi [15 January]. Although it is envisaged that every aspect and various dimensions of this policy will be considered at the fourth anniversary of the policy of national reconciliation; however, I want to expound briefly here on the most major gains of this policy during the past year.

Analysis and research shows that despite the extremists' military pressure on a number of provinces bordering Pakistan, military clashes, considering the whole country, have been reduced.

Engagement of the country's peasants in agricultural affairs and other peaceful activities in the country indicate this reality: that the trend of life in various regions of the country is becoming normal. Within the past several years some 69,474 unarmed and armed men came over to the side of the policy of national reconciliation. The armed activities of the opposition has decreased in a number of the provinces of the country. The process of contacting the commanders, ringleaders, chiefs of formations, and Afghan personalities inside and outside Afghanistan has been broadened. Positive changes occurred in the position of a number of Afghans regarding the solution of Afghanistan's issues. Cooling down the fire of fighting in various corners of the country, the decision of the commanders and ringleaders to come over to the side of government, the operation of administrative units, broadening of contacts with the opposition in various levels, concluding protocols for the purpose of ending armed activities between the government authorities and armed opposition groups inside the country, as well as the shaping of understanding between the Soviet Union and the United States concerning the political solution of the Afghanistan issue and support of world public opinion for the political solution of our country—all demonstrate the correctness of the policy of national reconciliation.

Undoubtedly, the role of the Homeland Party together with its political allies, in making productive the plans of the Republic of Afghanistan, is noticeable. The reality of the Homeland Party as an active and major national force in the country, which operates in pursuing the dictates of the sacred religion of Islam and supreme interests of Afghanistan, is being regarded as a major factor. The realization of the policy of national reconciliation and continuation of national policies, have prepared the ground so that the extremist factions of the opposition are gradually becoming isolated, especially from the political point of view. Even Pakistan, which supports extremists, is being put under pressure of public opinion in this country and in the world.

The UN resolutions on Afghanistan, good offices of the UN secretary general, efforts of personalities and leaders of a number of countries in accelerating the political solution of the Afghan issue—all demonstrate the correctness of the policy chosen by the Homeland Party.

The participation of the Republic of Afghanistan's delegation in the second international conference on less developed countries and exchange of views with a number of world's leaders and officials of international organizations, also helped in winning world public opinion support for the policy of national reconciliation. After the passing of each day this policy produces further fruits for the restoration of peace and consolidation of national unity. All these gains, as a matter of fact, are the products of the objective approach of the party vis-a-vis current realities.

On behalf of the Homeland Party, I once again address all the opposition forces, leaders of the formations, commanders, and Afghan political forces inside and outside Afghanistan:

As experience establishes the futility of the military solution and proves the bitter fact that as a result of fighting among the Afghans, more brothers and sisters in our country are damaged; then let us come and sit together and jointly search for a just and sound solution acceptable to all.

As the Homeland Party during the past four years has not refused to initiate contacts, talks, and understanding with every force, every commander inside the country, every ringleader or group, and every Afghan personality, in the future too we will not refuse to establish contact and hold talks with every armed group and their formation.

The reality of the Afghanistan issue is such that no group or political force alone is able to bring peace in Afghan territory. Therefore, no preconditions, aiming to negate this or that political force, can undo the knot of the present distrust between the political forces. If a side raises preconditions and excludes this or that force it means the continuation of war and further destruction of the Afghan common home. We are fully confident that Afghans, in following the dictates of the sacred religion of Islam and their national traditions, can and must

eliminate past differences and choose a path containing the future prosperity of the people of Afghanistan.

Esteemed comrades, as a result of changes in the structure of society, political pluralism, and deepening of democracy in the country, our party's operational ways and means will also change and new methods of activities will come into being. It is our duty to find these areas with all patriotic enthusiasm and, under any conditions, defend the role of the party for the restoration of peace and democracy in the country. The role of the party will not be reduced but will continuously increase.

Party members should strengthen their relations with people in cities, provinces, and villages and get across to them the aims of the Homeland Party which are in fact the demands of our compatriots. The victory of the party in the elections is directly connected with the role every party member plays to ensure lively relations with the people in the localities and in defense of their interests. The party should enrich its methods of action through general discussion among its members, and should create an atmosphere such that the people connect God-fearing views, humanism, nobility, patriotism, empathy, and caring for compatriots, with the name of the members of the Homeland Party. Being in contact with a broad strata of the people, representing their demands and needs is a part of the principle tasks of our party members. While marking the 26th anniversary of the party, we also look to the hope that all members of the Homeland Party, wherever they are, will critically assess their previous activities and adopt an objective attitude toward their shortcomings and mistakes and arrange their activities to better serve the people of Afghanistan.

This is the message of the session for marking the 26th anniversary of the Homeland Party for all its members. There has never been and will never be any value above serving the people with a spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion. [words indistinct] the thought of pluralism and joint activities in the common country and for common wishes also emanates from this reality. In our party the capacity for the continuation of joint work with allies and search for new allies in home and abroad arenas has emerged. The party, without the spirit of doing things alone, which has been entrusted to the past, searches for common features in all fields with allies, and, taking into account their role and share in the society, takes joint measures with them.

In the international field bright horizons can be seen before our party in the expansion of relations with national parties of various countries. The party wants to build and expand its relations with all parties and political organizations of the region, Arab nations, and other Asian and European countries, on the basis of the high interests of Afghanistan taking into account new international developments.

Esteemed friends and comrade, at the end once again I express my congratulations to all members of the Homeland Party on the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of the party and draw their attention to the observances of discipline, the unity of ranks, and the strengthening of the party. We believe that national reconciliation succeeds. I wish from God your further success in the implementation of national reconciliation which is the wish of the people of Afghanistan. We wish the success of all of you and all members of the Homeland Party in making honest efforts to serve the noble people of Afghanistan. Success comes from God. [Applause]

India

Shukla on Non-Aligned Movement Peace Moves

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[Text] New Delhi, Jan 24 (AFP)—India's foreign minister said Thursday he will travel to Tehran for talks with Iranian leaders on the Gulf war in pursuit of a Non-Aligned Movement bid to end hostilities.

Vidhya Charan Shukla said he would depart for the Iranian capital Friday, adding that he would join Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) counterparts from Yugoslavia, Algeria and Venezuela at a month-end meeting in Belgrade.

He told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency that New Delhi would widen consultations on the Gulf conflict with colleagues in the 102-nation movement currently headed by Yugoslavia, but gave no details.

The minister, who returned Thursday from a two-day visit to the Yugoslav capital where he also held talks on the Gulf crisis, rejected a suggestion that the United States opposed NAM's bid for a "pause" in hostilites, PTI said.

Non-aligned members are still consulting each other on a solution to the week-old war so there is no question of Washington rejecting it, Mr. Shukla was quoted as saying.

Consultations among NAM members, who have formed a caucus in the U.N. Security Council, have centred on New Delhi's proposal for a "pause of limited duration" in the war and a simultaneous Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Newspapers here have described the proposal as "doomed," with the United States and Britain rejecting it on grounds that a "pause" would enable Baghdad to regroup its forces, and citing Iraq's steadfast refusal to comply with international directives to quit Kuwait.

Mr. Shukla told Indian reporters in Belgrade Wednesday that "there are indications" that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had considered the proposal, adding, "We are hopeful of getting an answer from him."

India and Yugoslavia issued a communique from Belgrade on Wednesday expressing "grave concern" at the eruption of war and calling an early settlement of the conflict the "most urgent task" before NAM.

Here in New Delhi, former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh added his voice to growing criticism of the government's stand on the Gulf war, accusing it of deviating from India's "time-honoured" policy on the Palestine issue.

Mr. V.P. Singh, whose government was ousted by parliament in November after losing its legislative majority, disagreed with his successor Chandra Shekhar's stand that the Kuwaiti and Palestine issues could not be linked. He told a press conference Wednesday that a "moral linkage" existed between an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and an end to Israel's hold over the occupied Arab territories.

Mr. V.P. Singh, whose administration faced charges of soft-pedalling Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, refused to be drawn into a categorical criticism of the action but deplored the U.S.-led multinational attack on Iraq. He charged that his successor had bowed to pressure and diluted India's "time-honoured line" on the Palestine question, hinting that Mr. Shekhar's stand was dictated by India's need to win a 1.78-billion-dollar loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He demanded that Parliament meet in an emergency session to discuss the Gulf conflict.

Mr. Shekhar's minority government has raised its profile with efforts to mediate an end to hostilities after charges by former Premier Rajiv Gandhi that it had been reduced to a "hapless spectator" in the issue.

Leftist parties and the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party) have echoed the criticism by Mr. Gandhi, whose Congress (I) Party is keeping Mr. Shekhar in power by giving legislative support.

Foreign Ministry on Evacuation of Citizens in Gulf

BK2301160891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the Indian Embassy in Baghdad has been fully geared up to ensure safe passage of Indians willing to come out of Iraq. He said more than 375 Indian nationals in Iraq have crossed the border into Jordan and efforts are being made for their repatriation. A group of 116 Indian nurses reportedly crossed into Jordan, the spokesman said. There is no confirmation available.

Our Gulf correspondent Avinash Goyal quotes embassy sources in Amman as saying that the government is considering the evacuation of Indians stranded on the Jordanian border through the Red Sea port of Aqaba. According to the embassy sources the employees of the Indian mission in Baghdad are safe. All the 13 Lakh Indians in the Gulf countries are also safe. The Indian missions in the region are in constant touch with the Indian community and are extending all possible help. Our correspondent says that by and large there is no panic among the Indians in the region. He, however, reported some anxiety among those in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Bahrain as there are no flights from these countries.

Two large crude carriers of the Shipping Corporation of India have reached the (Fujayrah) port in the United Arab Emirates to lift crude. According to official sources two other vessels, including a very large crude carrier with a capacity of 270,000 tons, are also on their way and are expected to reach (Fujiara) port by the weekend. Another bulk carrier is proceeding toward Jeddah port in Saudi Arabia to lift crude. The employees of the state owned shipping corporation agreed to sail to the war-torn Gulf region following an appeal by the minister of state for surface transport, Mr. Manubhai Kotadia. He praised them that even during the Iran-Iraq war they had continued operations in the Gulf region at great risk to their life.

Iran

Syrian Delegation Arrives For Talks

Habibi, Khaddam Meet

LD2301172291 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Syrian First Vice President Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Tehran this evening at the head of a high-ranking delegation to discuss regional issues with officials of our country. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian first vice- president, arrived in our country this afternoon at the head of a diplomatic delegation. He was welcomed by our country's first vice-president, Mr. Habibi.

In an interview with reporters, Mr. Kaddam explained the reasons for this visit, saying: We have come to Iran in order to discuss with our Iranian brothers the events in the region.

Referring to the role of the Islamic countries in stopping the war and the common stances of Iran and Syria, he said: The two countries are in agreement that Iraq's sovereignty and national unity should be preserved. The two countries of Iran and Syria will confront any action which damages that unity.

Recalling the joint stances of Iran and Syria toward safeguarding the Iraqi nation's interests, he added: We are very pleased that Turkish officials have also agreed with us and are against any impairment of Iraqi sovereignty.

On the Iraqi missile attack against occupied Palestine, the Syrian first vice president said: Launching missiles from Iraq against Israel does not, in present circumstances, mean a war between Iraq and Israel. A war between Iraq and Israel takes place when the entire Iraqi army stands alongside us and against Israel. This [missile attack] has occurred at a time when, as we all know, the Iraqi army is in Kuwait.

Our country's first vice president, Mr. Habibi, also referred to the principle and firm policies of the Islamic Republic toward various developments of the war in the Persian Gulf. He said: We will endeavor to stop the war and to bring about the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the region and the Iraqi forces from Kuwait through cooperation with Islamic countries such as Syria. In line with these policies, one can refer to the joint commission of the two countries which is currently busy discussing issues of this kind.

Khaddam on Israeli Retaliation

LD2301152591 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—Syria's vice-president 'Abd al- Halim Khaddam today thought it unlikely that the Zionist regime would reply to Iraqi attacks.

He told IRNA that "war with Israel will occur only when the entirety of the Iraqi Army is fighting at our side against the Zionist enemy. For the moment Iraq is pre-occupied with Kuwait."

Khaddam, who arrived here this morning, said his government would pay due attention to any development in connection with the region, and added that Syria and Iran agree on the need for respecting and protecting Iraq's territorial integrity.

"We will stand against anything which should work against the territorial integrity of Iraq or against the unity of the Iraqis," said the Syrian official.

Asked to comment on the purpose of his visit to Tehran, he said he is here to review the Persian Gulf situation with the Iranian officials as well as participate in a high Iran-Syria commission which convenes on a periodical basis in Tehran and Damascus.

First deputy president of Iran Hassan Habibi who was present in the interview, said Iran opposes the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq but that at the same time it "will not tolerate the presence in the Persian Gulf of the foreign forces".

Foreign Ministers Meet

LD2301184391 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23—The illegal Zionist entity has reaped the maximum benefits from the unwanted war in the Persian Gulf, and is exploiting the crisis to get more financial and military aid from the U.S., the Syrian foreign minister told his Iranian counterpart today.

Faruq al-Shar' also called for a careful study of the various aspects of the crisis, for the sake of regional stability and security, in which the Islamic republic plays an important role.

He regretted the miscalculations of the Iraqi government, which he said, has led to the current dangerous crisis in the region.

'Ali Akbar Velayati in reply termed the outcome of the crisis "unpredictable", and said that an important part of the Islamic ummah [community] and its resources have so far been destroyed.

It is the Muslim and innocent people of Iraq which are exposed to the maximum loss, he said and made an urgent call for ways to end the "destructive war."

Velayati added that the Islamic republic has called for a meeting of foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to find a solution to the crisis without outside interference.

"An OIC meeting can hopefully broker a ceasefire, and convince Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait completely, while pressing for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of alien forces from the sensitive Persian Gulf region," Velayati said.

Faruq al-Shar' forms part of Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's delegation to Tehran which arrived this morning.

Rafsanjani Meets Khaddam

LD2401101391 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani here Thursday stressed the need for an immediate end to the Persian Gulf war and efforts by all countries to this end.

Speaking in a meeting with the visiting Syrian vice-president 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the president said that both Syria and Iran must closely follow the developments and launch efforts to prevent further damage on the Muslim nations of Kuwait and Iraq. He also said that the present regional conditions must be used to the interest of the Palestinians and the Islamic community.

The president once again called for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the expansionist forces from the region.

The Syrian vice-president who arrived here Wednesday for talks on the Persian Gulf war, now in its eighth day, and bilateral relations, stressed Iran-Syria role in launching further efforts to end the Persian Gulf war.

"We believe that under the present circumstances the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria shoulder a significant responsibility in solving the problem of the region. Enemies of Islam and Israel must not be allowed to use the present catastrophe to their own interest and to the detriment of the Islamic nations."

Khaddam conveyed heart felt greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad to President Rafsanjani and outlines views

of Damascus concerning the latest regional developments. He said Tehran and Damascus shared views on international issues.

The meeting was also attended by Iran's vice-president Hasan Habibi, the two countries' foreign ministers, and officials from the Supreme National Security Council.

Damascus Radio on Talks

NC2401064791 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Tehran—The Syrian-Iranian talks under Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Iranian First Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi will resume in Tehran today.

Yesterday's talks between the Syrian and Iranian delegations reviewed all aspects of the situation in the Gulf region. There was agreement that the key to a solution continues to lie in Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Final Round of Talks Held

LD2401112391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] The second and final round of talks between Mr. Habibi, first vice president of our country; and Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice president, took place this morning at the presidential palace. Messrs. Velayati and Faruq al-Shar', the foreign ministers of the two countries, and the ambassadors of Iran and Syria were present at the talks. The two sides once again stressed the need for the expansion and deepening of bilateral relations.

Next, the vice presidents of Iran and Syria discussed the Persian Gulf crisis and examined ways of ending the destructive war. They condemned the bloodshed and reiterated that the two sides shared basic positions on the need to end the war, the immediate withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, the complete and unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from the region, and Iraqi territorial integrity.

In this round of talks, the need for the formation of the Islamic Conference was once again discussed and examined. It was decided that negotiations with other members of the conference for the formation of the conference should continue.

Defense Official on Reasons for Not Entering War

LD2301173491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Although one week has passed since the beginning of the onslaught by the multinational forces—led by the United States—against Iraq, the battle between the two sides is still continuing with great intensity. The Western forces are attacking and destroying military and industrial centers, and even—according to Iraqi officials—cities and civilian areas. [passage omitted]

In order to inform our dear listeners about the Gulf war, our reporter has met Dr. Mohammadi, deputy minister of defense and armed forces logistics, and interviewed him about Iraq's tactics in confronting the multinational force, about the Islamic Republic of Iran's stances on the current war, as well as the role of our Armed Forces in neutralizing possible threats against our country's national interests and territorial integrity. [passage omitted]

[Begin Mohammadi recording] We are very sensitive about two issues and strongly oppose them. One is the dismemberment of any country, including Iraq, for we believe that the territorial integrity of states should not be damaged in any way. We are strongly opposed to the war being extended to that point.

The other issue is Israeli interference. The Iranian authorities have warned Israel against interference. Of course there is an issue involved here which leaves no room for doubt in the minds of the Muslim people of the region; it is that Iran believes in a total war to evict the Zionists from all the occupied Palestine territories. Iran will be in the vanguard of such a war, God willing, when the circumstances are right [zamineh-ha faraham shavad]. However, entering a crisis and a war the outcome of which is unknown and which is not being waged with a calculated and exact plan, will produce nothing but more losses and casualties in the Islamic region and among the Muslim people and even the Palestinians who have been expelled from their homeland. [passage omitted]

Iran is observing developments with the utmost vigilance. The Supreme National Security Council, which is under the chairmanship of the president—and its approvals are approved by the eminent leader [Khamene'i] as well—regularly meets to debate this and appropriate and timely decisions will be made when and if required.

To embark on a special intervention uner the influence of our emotions and without considering the effects and consequences of such a war, would naturally be unwise. We must all be under the command of the commander-in-chief and the eminent leader. Obeying the leader and the Supreme National Security Council will certainly enable us to achieve the blessings and the means needed to preserve the interests of Muslims. [end recording]

Report of Planned U.S. Envoy Visit Denied

LD2301152291 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—The spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Ministry Morteza Sarmadi Wednesday denied a BBC report Tuesday night which said that a personal envoy of George Bush was to arrive in Tehran

shortly. The BBC report said the U.S. envoy Richard Armitage currently in Amman, would depart for Tehran after holding talks with Jordanian officials.

"Obviously Iran supports peaceful means for ending the current conflict in the Persian Gulf, and endorses the diplomatic activities to halt this catastrophic war, but as a matter of principle Iran would never agree to inviting Americans to Iran or accepting their invitation for a meeting anywhere," Sarmadi said.

Mohtashemi Calls for 'Annihilation' of U.S.

LD2401095191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0500 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Remarks by Deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi at the Islamic Majlis session in Tehran—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verses omitted] Recently they created an extremely poisonous atmosphere through lies and distorted facts and by creating terror in the mass media and various gatherings, which I hope all stem from ignorance. Otherwise, if it is motivated by character assassination, they will definitely suffer God's wrath.

It has been said that all the trouble facing Iran, the Muslim, and the Iranian nation stems from the Great Satan. Yesterday [Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah] Khomeyni—God's peace be upon him—said, we must cut the hands of the traitors from this land, we say that it is America which has committed major treason against Iran. Today, it is America we are dealing with, the rest are its branches. [passage omitted]

Concerning the untruths, you dear deputies and the brave people of Iran know that no one has defended Saddam, and that we believe in the implementation of Articles 7 and 8 of Resolution 598 and consider him punishable. [passage omitted]

The great leader [Khamene'i] described confrontation with America in the Persian Gulf as jihad for the sake of God and being slain as martyrdom for the sake of God. Is that defending Saddam? Definitely not.

His Eminence Ayatollah Meshkini, the honorable chairman of the Assembly of Experts, clearly stated at the Friday prayers and elsewhere that he is prepared to fight America in the region. Is that in defense of Saddam? Or is it in defense of our Islamic homeland, the Muslims, and Islamic tradition?

The mercenary al-Sabah regime dragged America to the Persian Gulf in 1966 to defend it, and on Kuwait's request dozens of American warships were constantly in the region. However, the American servicemen did not prevent the occupation of Kuwait.

As I said, it would be simple-minded to think that America has come to repel aggression and believe its promise to leave the Persian Gulf after driving Iraq out of Kuwait. America has come to uproot Islam and the Muslims. America has come to destroy the holy places, the two holy shrines in Mecca and Medina, and Jerusalem. America has come to suppress the intifadah and establish the sovereignty of the Zionist regime from the Nile to the Euphrates. And today she wants to give the usurper Zionist regime assistance to the tune of $13 billion to house Jewish immigrants from all over the world in occupied Palestine and make the rest of the Palestinian Muslims homeless.

America has come to totally besiege the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic through ruling over her puppet regimes in Iran's neighborhood. After Iraq, that chain will be complete through setting up an American-backed government in Afghanistan.

I say these things today so that everyone understands. Does the holy religion of Islam dictate that Muslims watch the destruction of Islamic lands and the wealth and resources of Muslims by infidels and Christians? Does Saddam hold the fate of Iraq and the Iraqi people in his hands, that if they suffer he would suffer? And have thousands of tons of bombs been dropped on Saddam's head, or on men, women, and children in Iraq and Kuwait, towns and villages, Basra, Amara, Kut, Samara, Mosul in Iraq, the holy Najaf and the lofty Karbala and Baghdad and Karamaya?

Have we forgotten that the imam used to say emphatically that if we forgive Saddam we cannot forgive Fahd and his house, because he slaughtered hundreds of pilgrims beside God's house [Mecca] and violated Kabah's sanctity. Hasn't the house of Sa'ud made Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] and God's protected santuary the invasion center for American idols? What has happened that the crimes of the principle enemies of Islam and the Muslims, the world-devouring America and the treacherous house of Sa'ud, have been forgotten and some are after forming relations with Fahd's mercenary regime? Finally, I call on all the ulema, sources of emulation, and scholars in seminaries and in Islamic countries to fulfill their Islamic duties and responsibilities. Today the principle enemies of Islam and Muslims [speaker interrupts to say Mohtashemi's time is up, but he continues] are the top of world blashphemy: the American President and Zionism. By God, it is a cardinal sin if nothing is done in words and deeds for the annihilation of the Great Satan, America. The Muslim must attack all the interests of the United States and Zionism across the world and annihilate them. Relations with Britain, that deceitful and colonialist [more interruption by the speaker] government which is the supporter of Salman Rushdie and the main ally of America in this devastating war, must be severed. And any sort of contact and relation with the Saudi regime must be broken off. If confronation with the United States is done in a serious way, all the large and small idols, from Saddam to Fahd and Husni Mubarak, and the rest of the American mercenary rulers

also will be chucked in the dustbin of history. [speaker admonishes that the time is up and Mohtashemi desists]

Majles Deputies Give Opinions About Saddam

LD2301101491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0450 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Majles debate with contributions by Tehran Deputies 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi; in Tehran—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Nateq-Nuri] No one claims or can claim that the world-devouring United States and its allies have come to the region justly. Never. They are profit-seeking hegemonists who must pack their bags and go, very soon, hence placing the fate of the region in the hands of its nations. But, we must also not accept that Saddam is just and that to defend him is to defend the sanctum of Islam, in affirmation of the imam's decree, that the rule of the criminal Iraq is an affirmation of that, and that in fact this conflict, and the attack against Iraq, endangers Islam. [sentence as heard] Is it not true that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the treachery perpetrated against the people of that land are inconsistent with that decree and hence does not warrant a religious obligation? Is it not true that aggression by the usurper Israel against the holy land of Palestine and all those atrocities have hitherto served as affirmation of that also? And finally, is it not true that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and its massacre of that innocent Muslim nation resulted in [illegible] centuries? [passage omitted] Majles podium is not the place for it. [passage omitted]

In my opinion, the innocent sign of our great imam when he took the poisoned chalice [reference to remarks made by Khomeyni when he accepted the cease-fire with Iraq] the curse of the families of the martyrs and POW's, the tears of the orphans, and the pure blood of our martyrs have afflicted all those who have in any way harmed the innocent nation of Iran. [passage omitted]

Our prayers were answered and the war of blasphemy against blasphemy began. How can it be a war of Islam against blasphemy when the imam, may his soul rest in peace, incessantly warned us of the danger of Saddam, describing him as a mad criminal who on achieving power will not have mercy on anyone? It would be very naive of anyone to imagine that Saddam has changed his character. And how distanced from the imam's thinking to believe that Saddam will not attack us if one day he achieves power. Until very recently, when he was speaking from a position of power, he refused to discuss the 1975 Algiers accord. He is still arguing with us over the issue of a coastal border. He has still not given us a decisive and clear response with regard to POW's. He is stil sheltering the Mujahedin under the protection of his government. He is still deliberately [word indistinct] and prints false geographical maps. Yes, it is naive to consider that with the firing of one or two missiles at Israel he has become a believer in Islam, the revolution, and the imam. Never! In the words of a famous writer: The significance of Islam in this war is the same as that of Arabism in the war against us. The chanting of Islamic slogans at this juncture is as authentic as those against Islam and the Islamic revolution, in that jucture.

Another point worth mentioning is that we believe a holy war can only be waged under the leadership of the wise imam, just as the immaculate imams had banned going to war under the banner of the usurper caliphs. [passage omitted]

Yes, with the existence of the eminent leader and the Vali-e Amr of the Muslims [Khamene'i] there is no cause for concern over what our duty is. Our duty is whatever he graciously commands. When the Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] convenes a session in his presence and declares its policy with respect to the war in the region, which was sanctioned by the eminent leader, then there is no place for doubts or allusive remarks. And finally, we deputies have sworn to adhere to and implement the principles stipulated in the Constitution. According to the fifth clause of Article 105 of the Constitution, The declaration of war or peace and mobilization of forces are among the prerogatives and duties of the leader. Also setting policies of national defense and security—part of the general policies set by the leader—on the basis of Clause 1 of Article 176 of the Constitution, are among the duties of the SNSC. If one decides to act in accordance with one's own judgment and opinion, there will then be pandemonium.

In conclusion, I praise and thank the wise leader, the SNSC, and the responsible officials in the way they have dealt with the issue of the war in the Persian Gulf region and declare that the intrepid and Muslim nation has obeyed and continues to obey their Vali-e Amr. Whenever the eminent leader and the commander in chief of the armed forces considers it expedient and issues a decree, we will be at his service without a moment's hesitation. May God's blessing be upon you all. [passage omitted]

[Majles Speaker Karrubi] Mr. Mohtashemi wishes to point out a clause in the Majles regulations. Would you please tell us which clause.

[Mohtashemi] It regards Clause 77, which states that if in the course of a debate an ill-intended remark is leveled against a deputy, explicitly or implicitly, or if his opinion or viewpoint is in any way distorted, then if that deputy requests permission to speak in order to refute that accusation or to correct the error, either in the course of the same session or the next one, then he should be granted permission to speak out-of-turn for 10 minutes. Mr. Nateq-Nuri has implicitly referred to my remarks, and also of course Mr. Khalkali's remarks, and distorted them. I request that you grant me time tomorrow either during or after the preagenda speeches.

[Karrubi] We will have a discussion together later on whether this was an implicit reference to you, and in

which case whether that should be considered an aspersion leveled against you. We will discuss this together to see whether this is related to the regulations.

[Mohtashemi] You see Mr. Karrubi, my argument did not concern Saddam, but it was about the attack waged by the global arrogance and the United States against the Muslim nation of Iraq. The honorable gentleman officially distorted it, twisting it to connote a defense of Saddam and the Baath regime. This is a distortion. This was never said, and I have the right to defend myself. Everyone was a witness to how he officially distorted my remarks. You must grant me this permission. This is my legitimate right.

[Karrubi] We will discuss this together.

[Mohtashemi] What discussion? There is no need for discussion. All deputies now know this and all people have heard it. My point is that... [ignores Karrubi's order to sit down] My argument is not about the war, but about defending the Muslims.

[Karrubi] Let us discuss this later.

[Mohtashemi] Are you giving me this time tomorrow?

[Karrubi] That is fine. Tomorrow, very well, tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Unlikely Success of Peace Initiative

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. As the destructive war in the Persian Gulf enters its second week, some Arab countries, particularly the Arab Maghreb Union, have resumed their efforts to halt the war have resumed.

Within this context the foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union, which consists of Morocco, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania, recently met in Tripoli where they decided to officially call for a special UN Security Council session to halt the war in the Persian Gulf in order to provide an opportunity to find political solutions to the crisis. The Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers also agreed to call on other Arab countries to join in these efforts to safeguard the future of the Arab ummah and to preserve their general unity.

Since the onset of the crisis in the Persian Gulf, the Arab Maghreb countries have been involved in the search for a suitable solution to this problem. Numerous plans have been proposed, either by the union or by the leaders of its member states, but so far these have been to no avail.

The Arab Maghreb's diplomatic efforts stem from the fact that most of the union's members adopted a stand of virtual neutrality in the very first days of the crisis by condemning the occupation of Kuwait and at the same time abstaining from voting in favor of the U.S. and Western military presence in the Persian Gulf. The official stand of these countries was apparently based on the principle that the presence of foreign forces not only would not contribute to a peaceful solution, but could create new crises and trigger a war.

The Arab Maghreb Union's political efforts had and continue to have a domestic dimension in that there has been a rare upsurge of anti-American and anti-Western feeling in the North African Muslim nations with the start of the multinational forces' war against Iraq. Anti-war demonstrations take place daily in the Arab Maghreb countries. Volunteers express their readiness to fight against America and the Zionist regime and the people declare their moral, material, and economic support for the Iraqi people.

In view of the mounting wave of anti-arrogance and anti-Zionist sentiment among North African Muslims, the diplomatic efforts by the North African leaders are aimed at satisfying the call of their nations to halt the war and, at the same time, at showing that the continuation of the current destructive war on the territory of Arabs and Muslims does the greatest harm to the regional countries and wastes their political, military, and economic resources.

Political observers believe that as America entered the war under the guise of the UN Security Council resolution against Iraq, it will not accept any political solution until Iraq's war machine is destroyed. From America's point of view, any intervention in the war would be unfavorable to it, giving Iraq an opportunity to rebuild its military strength.

Washington thus believes that any cease-fire called by the Security Council will be to its detriment. American officials are doing their best to prevent any new resolution from being issued by the Security Council at this stage because such resolutions will strengthen anti-war feeling in America and the West.

Political observers point to the fact that in the view of most Persian Gulf officials, America is not moving in the same direction as the Security Council decisions, adding that there is only a very small chance that political efforts will succeed at this point and that it is future developments on the battlefield that will determine the extent of progress in diplomatic activities.

Press Commentaries on Gulf War Reviewed

LD2301112191 Tehran IRNA in English 0937 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23. IRNA—All Iranian dailies Wednesday editorialized on the Persian Gulf war, now in its seventh day, supporting Iran's neutral stand in the war and calling for its termination before it destroys all resources of the Iraqi nation. Excerpts follow:

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL'

If Iraq has entered into war against the U.S.-led forces only to keep hold of Kuwait, "it is wasting time and fighting a lost cause."

It has been proven that the U.S. and its allies cannot gain an easy and spectacular win after six days of war. "If we are to tally up an outcome and decide on a winner, it is Iraq and the person of Saddam Husayn."

Iraq has stood courageously and has not succumbed to the American gunboat or the carrot and stick diplomacy. Iraq has also kept its promises on staying in Kuwait, although it has to withdraw eventually, and has subjected the Zionist territory to Iraqi missiles.

"Iraq proved to the world and Arab masses that Israel is not invincible with whom nobody should confront. This is despite and with the full knowledge of the fact that Israel has been under pressure from the U.S. and its European allies not to retaliate for fear of cracking the anti-Saddam Arab-western coalition.

"Having seen the Israeli cruelty to Palestinians, Israel might have needed a dose of the same senselessness and cruelty to awaken them to some facts... The blood of innocent people might force the Israelis to come to their senses with respect to full Palestinian rights.

"Having shown that it is strong, determined, and courageous enough to face the U.S., Iraq should make a mediated settlement of this war possible."

"Everything considered, it seems Saddam will have to take himself up on what he has been quoted to have said to Soviet Arab expert Yevgeniy Primakov namely: I am a realist, I know I will have to eventually leave Kuwait," concluded KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

'TEHRAN TIMES'

"The Iraqi leader is determined to inculcate the idea that the war is between Islam and infidelity and unfortunately some Iranian parliamentarians too seemed to be attracted to his slogan without careful consideration."

If Saddam refers to the conflict as a war between Islam and infidelity, it is an attempt to escape the present deadlock. Previously he described the 1980-88 imposed war on Iran as an Arab-Iran war and failed to capture Khuzestan within his planned three days.

It was Saddam who triggered the present war by invading Kuwait, an open violation of all international laws and regulations.

"It is still more unfortunate when a certain leading Iranian cleric goes so far as to call Saddam's escapade a 'holy war', such as the crusades of the 11th century," said TEHRAN TIMES in reference to statement made by some hardliners in the Majles in the past few days questioning Iran's neutrality in the war.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI'

The Islamic Republic of Iran is completely neutral in the Persian Gulf war and any trace of doubt in rightfulness of Iran's stand is in the interest of Islam's enemies.

While neutral, the Islamic Republic is fulfilling its revolutionary and Islamic duty and has launched efforts to end the tragedy.

Muslims should not fall into the trap of Baghdad's resort to Islamic slogans because the Iraqi regime has best served interests of the world arrogance and Zionists for one decade.

Firing several missiles on Israel in order to press the U.S. and its allies cannot be interpreted as signs of Baghdad's anti-Zionist tendencies. By firing several missiles on Israel Saddam cannot make up for his treasons against the Islamic world—the 1980-88 war against Iran.

Iran can never join Baghdad in its war against the U.S. and Israel because Baghdad has proved to be "unreliable" and has proved his [as received] disloyalty to his allies, last of which is "swallowing of its smallest ally—Kuwait."

Those who argue that Iran should stop the massacre of the Muslims by entering the war are mistaken, concluded the daily.

'TELA'AT'

Islamic Republic of Iran cannot take sides with an ressor and occupier" regime and fight alongside a ne which fantasises becoming a "superpower".

can the Islamic Republic, itself a victim of Iraqi ession, with many years of confrontation with Amer- and Russian oppressors, fight on the side of an essor and occupier regime which dreams of ming a superpower and capturing all Islamic and lands?

fact is that the Iraqi regime is fighting to achieve its own timate goals. The same applies to the U.S. with the only rence being that the U.S. acts sound rightful though, as l, are wrong in nature, wrote the evening daily.

Pakistan

Anti-U.S. Rallies in Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi

BK240401011691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1722 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 23 (AFP)—Scores of white-shrouded students demonstrated Wednesday in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar to denounce allied air strikes on Iraq, witnesses said.

They wound up the rally with a mock trial that sentenced U.S. President George Bush to be flogged for "immoral"

conduct in ordering the attacks, they said. One student cracked 50 lashes on an effigy of the U.S. leader amid chants of "Down with America."

In Quetta, about 2,000 people took part in a pro-Iraqi march organised by the Puktunkhawa Mili Awami Party, which represents Pushtu-speaking Pathans in Balochistan Province, witnesses said.

Maulana Fazalur Rahman, chief of the fundamentalist Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, called at a public meeting of some 4,000 people in Quetta for the government to immediately withdraw 10,000 Pakistani troops stationed in Saudi Arabia.

Leader of the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Party and political ally of ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Asghar Khan, also led an anti-U.S. rally of more than 1,000 people in nearby Rawalpindi, witnesses said.

PML Accuses U.S. of Exceeding UN Resolutions

BK2401010891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1855 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 23 (AFP)—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML) party accused the United States and its allies Wednesday of going beyond United Nations resolutions in the Gulf war.

"It is now clear that the U.S. and its allies have embarked on a path of destroying Iraq's military potential so that no Islamic country remains strong enough in the region to thwart Israeli ambitions," said a resolution adopted by a PML High Command meeting.

The resolution of the PML, the core party in the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), coincided with the current peace mission of Mr. Sharif who has arrived in Turkey after holding talks with Iranian leaders in Tehran.

"What started as a move to liberate Kuwait and defend Saudi Arabia has now gone far beyond the scope of the United Nations resolutions," the resolution said.

Pakistan has been witnessing daily anti-U.S. demonstrations, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the 10,000 Pakistani troops deployed in Saudi Arabia before the war.

The influential Pakistani newspaper DAWN on Wednesday quoted sources close to the prime minister as saying Pakistan would recall its troops from Saudi Arabia if Israel entered the war in any way.

The report said Islamabad had already received information that Israel was "using the Saudi soil to launch retaliatory attacks on Iraq."

In addition to nationwide protests, the government has been facing "stiff reaction" within the ruling alliance against the U.S.-led attacks on Iraq, the newspaper said.

The PML resolution called for an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf followed by an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and of all non-Moslem forces from Saudi Arabia.

It proposed stationing an "Islamic security force" in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to safeguard the security of the region pending a peaceful settlement.

Bhutto Praises Bush's 'Deft' Handling of Crisis

BK2401103891 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Karachi, Jan 22; former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has praised the "deft manner" in which US President George Bush has handled the Gulf crisis including collecting the assortment of countries to join him through the United Nations forum.

Speaking as a representative leader of the Muslim World on the Gulf crisis on ABC Television's programme, 'Good Morning America', Ms Bhutto told questioner that "in view of certain ambivalence among Muslims in various countries over the Kuwaiti issue, it would have been more appropriate that the United Nations sanctions had been given more time". However, according to her, "almost the entire Muslim world was of the view that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait and had condemned its act of aggression."

A press release issued from Bilawal House went on to say that Ms Bhutto gave "full marks" to President Bush for "his extensive use of peaceful means to resolve the issue". However, she noted that the military action had brought into focus the perceived contradictions that Muslims had with the West. According to her, the perceptions of Muslims killing Muslims had "caused them to detach themselves from what they considered was a principled stand vis-a-vis Iraq's blatant aggression against Kuwait."

Ms Bhutto called for a "pause" in bombing and further military action to give another try to peaceful and diplomatic endeavours to get Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. According to her, the pause was all the more imperative for both individual and collective peaceful action by Muslim countries and their leaders to "avert an imminent backlash in the Gulf and Middle East".

Ms Bhutto expressed hope that aside from resolving Kuwait's occupation issue in the second phase of the new world order, the "Kashmir issue and the right of self-determination for the people of Palestine would surely be taken up by the United Nations."

Paper Praises Call for Simultaneous Withdrawal

BK2401102491 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Jan 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Well done Mr President!"]

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's call for simultaneous withdrawal of Ziono-US troops from Riyadh and Iraqi troops from Kuwait cannot better represent and reflect the conscience of the people of Pakistan and the world. Had the President and Prime Minister spoken in the same strong strain earlier, they could have got into

motion a chain of similar voices from world statesmen like Gorbachev, Kohl, China etc, and maybe averted the genocide unleashed by the raving Shamir-Bush duo. The President's assertions will have positive impact not only on the domestic scene, but also internationally. It would give boost and support to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's journey which has already achieved high international profile after the fruitful and supportive stopover in Tehran. This significant changeing of lanes, portends a more principled position by Pakistan and lays the basis of a genuine anti-Ziono-US front; which could coopt countries like Syria etc. Islamabad's revised wisdom, albeit delayed and still evolving, must be pursued with caution. Not coincidentally it has the full backing of the brass as well as the people.

Islamabad would, of course, have to watch and cover its eastern flank, India. Whether India's alignment with Baghdad is tactical or strategic needs to be watched. Presently India is out of the Ziono-US constellation and hence holding back any adventure against Pakistan; but should Paksitan go the whole hog against the Ziono-US perceptions, India could easily be activated against us.

Most governments in the region, over simplification permitting, are faced with a damned if you do, damned if you don't choice. Earlier relations having been threatened, blown up by the Ziono-US imposed War against Iraq and the Ummah; only principled perceptions and policies will survive, no matter what the cost. Hopefully, Baghdad will be reassured that despite its errant, erratic track record with Pakistan, the people and government of Pakistan are Muslims first and Muslims last. The Ziono-US juggernaut would be well advised to take heed of the power of the people in Muslim lands. Policies made in sand castles will be blown away by the 'Desert Storm'. We are proud of you Mr President. Hopefully the Prime Minister will convey similar messages to the rest of the capitals on his itinerary.

Editorial on 'Senseless' Civilian Deaths in Gulf

BK2401101991 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Jan 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Time for sanity"]

[Text] The American NBC News has reported that an explosion apparently caused by an Iraqi Scud missile ripped through a residential section of Tel Aviv and wounded a number of people. "There's a tremendous amount of damage, I would say something like three square blocks of houses have been really smashed", said NBC correspondent Martin Fletcher in a live report from Tel Aviv. Meanwhile CNN, in its telecasts on Wednesday morning reported three people had died as result of the Iraqi Scud attack on Tel Aviv. The saner elements in Pakistan who have been condemning the Carpet bombing of Baghdad are now also beginning to ask if the action of President Saddam in targeting the civilian population of Tel Aviv is not as inhumane as the killing of Iraqi civilians through their air attacks on the Iraqi capital. Any way one looks at it, there can be nothing but condemnation for either side.

It is doubtful whether world opinion holds any importance for either President Bush or his Iraqi counterpart but till the latest Scud attack on Tel Aviv, there was no blackout in Baghdad at night and so, the American-Led allied airforces cannot extend that as an excuse for the indiscriminate bombing of Baghdad in which, although the numebr of civilian casualties or fatalities is not known, a considerable number of civilians are bound to have been killed. On the other hand, if Presdient Saddam attacked Israel as one of the imperatives for survival, there is a growing consensus that he should have targeted Israeli military installations instead of zeroing in on civilian residential areas in Tel Aviv. It is equally true that the US-led airforces in an attempt to bring the Gulf War to a quick end, should have devised a saner strategy than the indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Baghdad and more recently, in Basra. Additionally, the Israeli atrocities against the Palestinians in Sabra, Shatila, the Lebanon and now in the Gaza Strip and the West bank stand out as some of the most merciless examples of hurman repression in history. The missile attacks on Tel Aviv and Haifa are, therefore, poetic justice but killing of civlians cannot be justified on any grounds.

Whatever the motivation for the allied forces' presence in Saudia and the attacks on Iraq, the whole Gulf War is a senseless exercise so far in the killling of civilians. There can be no doubt that the extermination of non-combatants of whatever caste, colour or creed, cannot be condoned under any circumstances. The Americans have demonstrated that they can muster a mammoth alied force at the drop of a hat but not their ability to bring Saddam to his knces in record time. Saddam, on his part, has also demonstrated that his forces were not the pushover that the US-led allies thought they were. Whatever the number of casualties in air and missile attacks by either side, it is high time Presidents Saddam and Bush came to their senses and agred on an immediate ceasefire, whereafter the modalities of a lasting peace in the Middle East could be worked out without the unnecessary shedding of blood.